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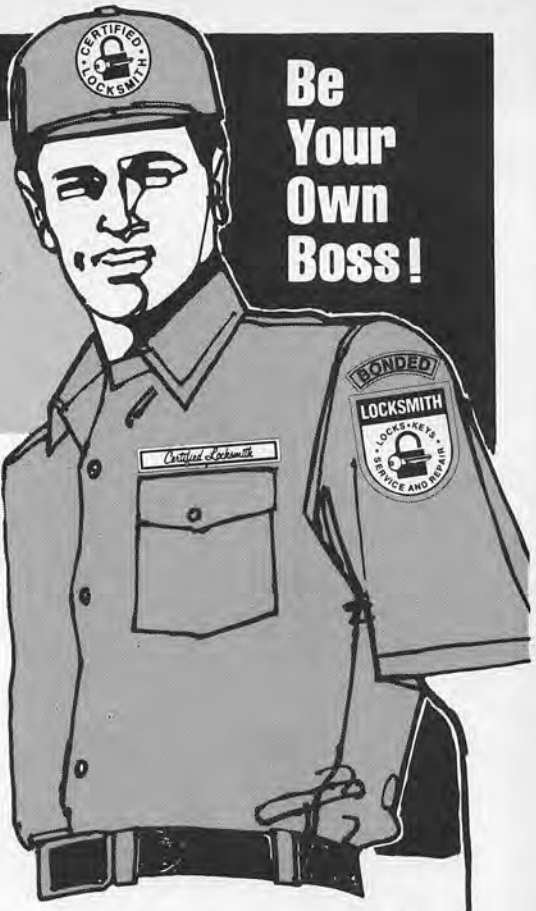

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BABY DOLL NO PLAYTHING

I think that the NWA should take some kind of action to keep Tully Blanchard's so-called valet, Baby Doll, away from ringside during his matches. It's a real measure of Blanchard's manhood that he can't even win a match unless Baby Doll is at his side holding his hand and handing him foreign objects. We've all seen her interfere in Blanchard's matches against Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A. and Terry Taylor. We saw her give Ole Anderson an object that he used to break Sam Houston's arm and we saw her give Black Bart a loaded elbow pad to defeat Ronnie Garvin. Is the NWA blind? How far are they prepared to let Baby Doll go? If Blanchard isn't man enough to do his own fighting, he should get out of wrestling. Blanchard must love fat women, because his Baby Doll is sure no perfect 10! If anything, she's more like a size 20.

PHYLIS KERNS
Baltimore, MD

Reader Phylis Kerns does not like the actions of Baby Doll and her employer, Tully Blanchard. She calls for the NWA to take some sort of action against her constant interfering in matches.

MAYBE HE'S CLEANING THE STABLES

We here in Pennsylvania demand to know what happened to the greatest wrestler and the greatest body in the world, Hercules Hernandez. He strolls into Florida, wins the Southern and Florida championships as easy as picking oranges off a tree and then, with no explanation, leaves. What gives? You guys are supposed to have all the answers. Was it that he just got bored with the lack of competition down in Florida? Or is there a conspiracy afloat in the ranks to keep a man of Hernandez's great talents out of the ring? After all, when he is around, he undoubtedly tips the balance of competition. We request a cover and centerfold of this great and handsome grappler. It would become your largest selling issue.

SYLVIA PLUM
Lehigh Valley, PA

[Hercules Hernandez is currently wrestling in Puerto Rico. He is negotiating with mainland promoters and may be back in the continental U.S. by the time you read this.]

FAN ATTACK

In the October 1985 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling,* I read a letter from an idiot in Arizona named Philip Larsen. In it, he said, "The WWF is

(Continued on page 47)

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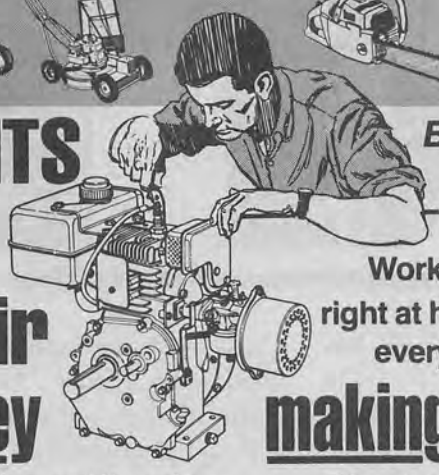

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THE TATTLER

NEW YORK, NY: Lou Albano has been named Manager of the Year by the WWF in a vote riddled with controversy. Bobby Heenan defeated Albano in the initial tally, but only after his rulebreaking colleagues contributed all of their votes to his final total. Upon hearing that, Hillbilly Jim gallantly donated his votes to Albano, which put The Captain over the top.

When Albano went on television to accept his award, he was attacked by a bitter Bobby Heenan who grabbed Albano's plaque and hit him over the head with it. This was the second time in less than a year that the Captain has been cold-cocked with an award. In February, Roddy Piper stole into Madison Square Garden and smashed Albano with a plaque he was receiving in recognition of the work he had performed for the Multiple Sclerosis foundation.

Albano was incensed by Heenan's act and vowed revenge. "If the vote had been honest from the start, then Heenan would have finished third, behind Hillbilly Jim and myself," Albano said. "If he can't accept losing then I'll teach him the meaning of the word defeat. I will not rest until I have Heenan's head in my hands."

Someone reminded The Captain that it was just seven years ago that he grabbed the Manager of the Year plaque from the unsuspecting hands of Arnold Skaaland and bashed it over the head of the popular manager. "I was another man then," Albano croaked. "That man couldn't separate right from wrong. It took that man many years to learn his lessons."

And if The Captain, has his way school will be back in session for Mr. Bobby Heenan.

—Alison Corey

(Continued on page 64)

CAPT. LOU ALBANO

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—Alison Corey

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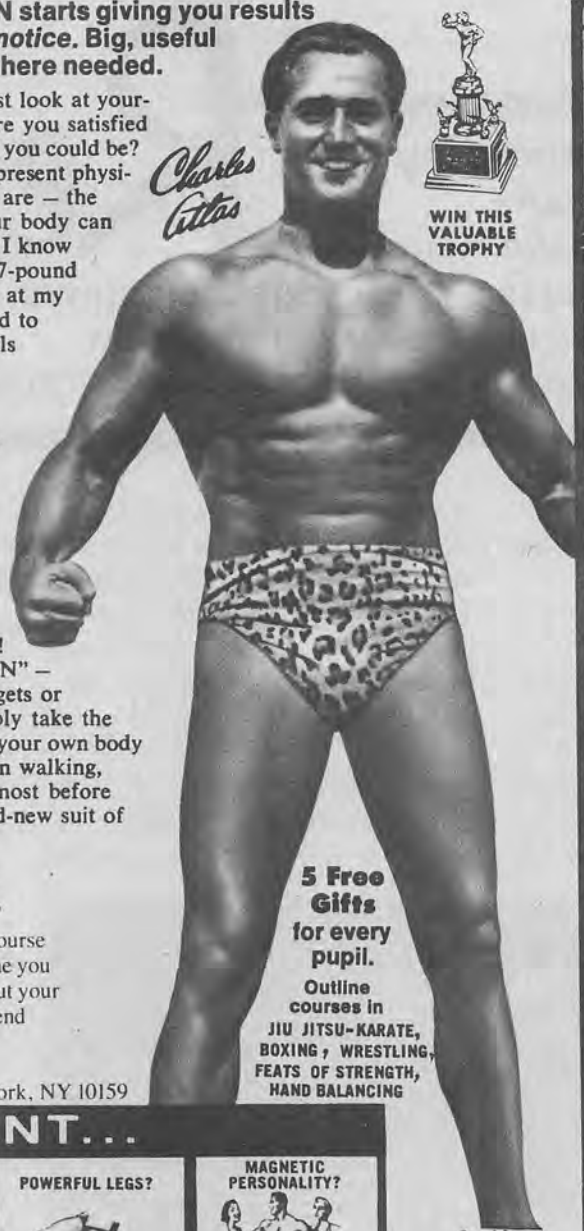

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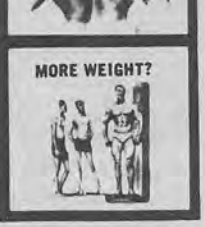

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THE QUESTION:
"Which two men would comprise your 'dream tag team?' "

THE ANSWERS:
Johnny Lund, Dana Pt., CA: "I think that Larry Zbyszko and Roddy Piper would make a tremendous tag team. They both have such interesting shows on television that together in the ring they would talk their opponents into submission. Then they could talk to each other and the referee and the fans until there was no one left to talk to. Then they would be all talked out and they'd have to go home and no one would hear them on television anymore. Wouldn't that be great!"

Nicola Scharr, Irving, TX: "My team is still Kevin Von Erich and Chris Adams. I felt that they were unbeatable when they were friends a year and a half ago, and feel the same way today. Their reunion would be like the Beatles getting together again. To dispel any suspicions about each other's sincerity, each man would have to be so intense and thorough in the ring that no team would stand a chance. All I can say is that I want to be there the day that reconciliation happens."

Chris Adams locks up Kevin Von Erich during another installment of their continuing feud. If the feud were erased from both their minds, Kevin and Chris would be a dream tag team.

Susan Schonberg, Kent, CT: "I think a tag team consisting of Billy Jack Haynes and Rick Rude would be terrific for many reasons. First, as far as pure and pleasurable beefcake is concerned, there aren't two wrestlers in the world who look as good as Haynes and Rude do. Second, both men are somewhat underrated in the wrestling world, and together I'm sure they would be shoo-ins for every major tag team title."

Paul Kalkstein, Oakland Park, FL: "How about a team of Road Warrior Hawk and Nikita Koloff. Ouch! It hurts just to think about the kind of punishment that a combination of such brawn and muscle would dispense. This is no knock on Ivan and Warrior Animal, but let's face it, I'd fight 10 Ivan Koloffs to every Nikita and beg

(Continued on page 62)

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We want to emphasize . . . INSTANTAN is GOOD for your skin. Its dermatologically formulated with a collection of your skin's best helpers . . . plus an ingredient that adds a pigment developed with the aid of men's fashion consultants to achieve the color and glow most flattering to macho men. It contains elements that no other product of its kind has ever been able to boast before. It is indeed science's answer to a long-standing demand for a skin-tanning process that takes no time at all and does away with tedious methods now practiced.

Costs less in time and money!

Sun bathing takes lots of time and costs money in travel, lotions, and hours of basking in strong sunlight. INSTANTAN costs only pennies per application; takes only minutes and actually improves your skin better than lotions and balms and ointments costing up to ten times as much. And here's one MORE but very important PLUS . . . INSTANTAN is ***guaranteed*** . . . and we mean UNCONDITIONALLY . . . to be all we say . . . and to do all we promise . . . as fast as we say it will. All we want you to do is ***try it***. Spread a little on your skin. See how great it FEELS. Notice how great it looks! ***That satiny golden sheen.*** That healthy beachcomber look. That jet-setter vacation affluence you emanate. You'll have the look you've been envying on others. The glow of success. The appearance of well-being. And underneath your tan, your skin will take on a fine, smooth tone that only a well-cared-for complexion has.

High quality skin-care product. Guaranteed to improve your skin.

Men of fair skin whom nature cheated out of the joy of a rich, healthy tan by making them turn beet-red and suffer pain, stop hiding from threatening ultra-violet rays! Your time has come! Spread on INSTANTAN and look marvelous! Stop worrying about the vulnerability to skin disease. INSTANTAN is good for fair skin especially! See how smooth, flexible and youthful your skin will become. Say goodbye to the lobster look and say hello to that rich, golden, satin-gloss look you've always wished for. Fair skin or olive skin . . . INSTANTAN is for you. Wait till you see for yourself!

Not just a skin cover but a deep-down penetrating treatment.

We want you to give INSTANTAN the quick-spread test. Just rub it on any part of your body. See how it sinks INTO your skin. How smoothly it spreads. How good it feels. And how its satiny finish looks like the perfect suntan in rich glow, color and texture. How natural! Your friends will compliment you . . . and envy you.

INSTANTAN *is the triumphant result of persistant, patient, extensive scientific research!*

Dermatologists, bio-chemists, pharmacists and researchers pooled their collective knowledge to bring forth a product that works like magic. Soothes, smooths, colors, nourishes, protects, improves and stays on. Then off it comes, completely and easily WHEN YOU WANT IT TO. If that isn't something to shout about, we don't know our miracles . . . and we've brought forth a few. Try it yourself without risk.

A personal note from us to you...

Before INSTANTAN is offered through national retail channels, we have induced the laboratories not only to permit us to bring this wonder product to you by mail order, but to let us set the price as low as possible for a predetermined time. The great success we have had with over a dozen new products in the very recent past has given us special prestige with research laboratories, not to mention an enviable position among consumers. Our guarantee on all our products means a lot.

No more hours of broiling! No more waiting! Tan right away! GLOWING NATURAL BRONZE!

Ever on the alert to bring our many friends new and wonderful products at prices they can well afford, we are justifiably proud to bring you INSTANTAN because we know of nothing else like it. So confident are we that you will not only delight in it but tell your closest friends and family about it that we have specially lowered the offering price in anticipation of extraordinarily large volume through recommendation. Only by trying it can you even begin to appreciate it. Therefore, we urge you to order now and get our quick delivery.

If you're not absolutely thrilled with what **INSTANTAN** *does for you return it for full refund!*

What else can we do but impress upon you the fact that we take all the risk? How else can we convince you that we are 100% sincere when we make claims that are so sensational they are hard to believe? But if you try this product and for any reason feel even the slightest bit dissatisfied, we will gladly refund your money. Our good reputation is at stake.

NANCY JONES HEALTH WORLD, INC. Dept. 50Y
P.O. BOX 879, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

OKAY! Send me a supply of INSTANTAN and if it doesn't produce a better tan than the sun, or a lamp or pills I understand I can get my money back . . . no delay or questions . . .

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SCRAPBOOK

SEPT/OCT 1965

THE CAPACITY CROWD at Madison Square Garden that came to see Bruno Sammartino take apart the hated Cowboy Bill Watts got a little bonus before Bruno went to work on Watts, he tore the Cowboy's eight-gallon hat and mutilated his antelope-skin jacket. Bruno won the match at the 21:49 mark after escaping a Watts backbreaker ... The Fabulous Kangaroos, Al Costello and Ray Heffernan, went their separate ways after losing the Canadian tag team championship to Don Leo Jonathan and Jim Hardy. Costello moved to San Francisco, while Heffernan returned to Australia ... Rumors persisted that NWA champion Lou Thesz was about to retire to his ranch in Phoenix, Arizona ... Texas brass knuckles champion Bull Curry warned the Lewin Brothers, Ted and Mark, about infringing on his territory ... Crusher continued to reign as AWA champion, though his feud with Mad Dog Vachon left a trail of blood throughout the AWA. SINGLES RATINGS: 1—Lou Thesz; 2—Bruno Sammartino; 3—Bill Watts; 4—Johnny Valentine; 5—Johnny Powers; 6—Crusher; 7—Mad Dog Vachon; 8—Gorilla Monsoon; 9—Fritz Von Erich; 10—Waldo Von Erich. TAG TEAMS: 1—Ray Stevens & Pat Patterson; 2—Aldo Bogni & Bronco Lubich; 3—Don Leo Jonathan & Jim Hardy 4—The Von Brauners; 5—The Assassins; 6—Larry Hennig & Harley Race; 7—John Henning & Pat O'Connor; 8—Bill Watts & Gorilla Monsoon; 8—Eddie and Jerry Graham; 9—Pepper Gomez & Ricky Romero; 10—George & Sandy Scott.

"Cowboy" Bill Watts seems to be begging for mercy as Bruno Sammartino unloads a powerful right arm. The Sammartino-Watts feud was one of the classics of the 1960s, drawing record crowds for that time.

Lou Thesz relaxes at his ranch in Phoenix, Arizona. In the midst of his unprecedented sixth NWA World title reign, there were persistent rumors of retirement.

SEPT/OCT 1970

PROFESSOR TORU TANAKA was aboard a hijacked jet and had a chance to use his wrestling and martial arts ability for the side of good for a change. He wisely declined.

When Professor Toru Tanaka found himself aboard a hijacked jet, he had to make the decision whether to take on the terrorist. Not wishing to put innocent people in jeopardy, Tanaka declined to get involved.

The stewardess asked him if he could get the gun away from a hijacker. After saying he would, Tanaka reconsidered. "I could have gotten that nut's gun," he said. "No sweat. But with so many people

(Continued on page 56)

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YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

ASK THE STARS
Sports Review Wrestling
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

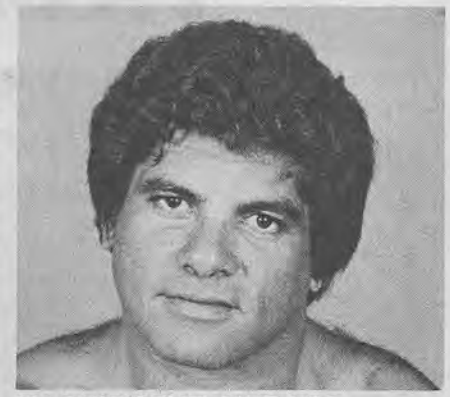
THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"Did you have a wrestler who you idolized or admired when you were growing up?"

Submitted by: Katrina Castro, Silver Spring, MD

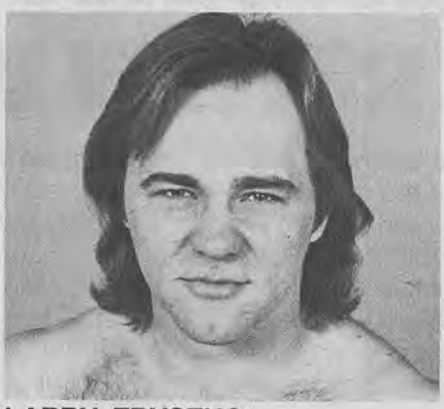
BRUISER BRODY

"Nobody! That's the stupidest question I've ever heard in my life! There were *two* reasons I wanted to become a pro wrestler: One, to beat people senseless and get paid for it, and two, to show up all those big bad men for what little ladies they actually were. I've never seen a wrestler whose butt I couldn't whup five minutes out of bed in the morning. You should be happy, Katrina, that I came around to dignify the sport!"



MAGNIFICENT MURACO

"I have taken extensive notes on a number of wrestlers throughout my life, but the one man who influenced me the most was a manager: the late, great Grand Wizard of Wrestling. Just one look in that man's face would tell you all you need to know about twisted cunning and evil genius. He took his strategies from the power of the dark side, like Mr. Fuji, and he changed my life. I miss him, but I'll see him in the underworld."



LARRY ZBYSZKO

"Hey, everybody knows the sorry answer to that question. I grew up idolizing pasta-face Bruno. I had his pictures all over my walls, little wallet-sized cards, the whole bit. Hell, he had me brainwashed before I even met him—I worshipped a false idol. Now no man will ever hate another man as much as I hate Bruno. Other peoples' feuds make me laugh, they all amount to meager hatred compared to my loathing of Bruno."

KILLER BROOKS

"Ain't no question about it. The roughest, toughest badass ever to lace on a wrestling boot was the one and only Killer Kowalski. If it wasn't for him, this sport would still be in the hands of the sissy boys who like to prance around like ballerinas instead of pummeling their opponents into submission. You know, I always hated having a wimpy name like Tim, and the Killer gave me the idea for a better one. He made wrestling a man's sport."

RS ANSWER
OF THE MONTH

TERRY TAYLOR

"You may laugh at this, but my favorite wrestler growing up was a real wild man named Pampero Firpo. He used to bite and gouge and try to rip people's noses off, and I thought it was great! Later, when I got to be more mature, I learned to appreciate the scientific skills of guys like the Briscos and Verne Gagne more, and modeled my own career after them. But I started out cheering on that nut from Argentina, believe it or not!"

BARON VON RASCHKE

"I grew up during the Nazi terrors, and as you know there was strict censorship on all books and other artistic material moving in and out of Germany. However, a friendly wrestling instructor at the *Turnverein* youth club managed to smuggle in a pirated film of Lou Thesz wrestling Everett Marshall for us kids. We were enthralled at the grace and skill of these fine champions. Ever since then, Lou Thesz has held a dear place in my heart."

STEVE WILLIAMS

"I pretty much grew up on doubles of Daryle Lamonica football cards, but I did watch a little wrestling here and there before I got seriously involved with it in school. One of my personal favorites was Gene Kiniski. Yeah, he was a rock—a tough ol' mother with two cauliflower ears and every dirty trick in the book. I also liked Dory Funk Jr. and Johnny Valentine, but not as much as Ray Nitschke and Bob Lilly!"

RIC FLAIR

"My answer probably won't surprise too many people out there. Buddy Rogers inspired me and countless other wrestlers with his expert application of the figure-four leglock and his overall splendor. Man, he was classy. *Whoo!* I felt kind of bad when I had to wrestle him in 1979, but he was an old man who had to be put in his place. Larry Holmes did the same thing to Muhammad Ali, and Rocky Marciano did the same thing to Joe Louis. They didn't like it either."

ICEMAN PARSONS

"When I was growing up in the Pruitt-Igoe projects in North St. Louis, a lot of cats I knew flipped out over Ali and Bob Gibson. Me, I always got up early Sunday mornings so I could watch Rufus R. Jones and Bobo Brazil on *Wrestling At The Chase*. They were the finest black wrestlers of their time, and they always wrestled scientifically. They were an inspiration to me, and I hope I can be as positive a role model to the kids back home as they were."

ROAD WARRIOR HAWK

"When me and Animal were terrorizin' all the gerbil-faced twits on the South Side, we didn't have much time to be sittin' in front of the boob tube. Whenever we beat up a few security guards and barged in free to see wrestlin' at the Ampitheatre, the only geeks we cheered for were Bruiser and Crusher. We knew they loved kickin' butts and inflictin' agony just as much as we did. So later we had to kick Crusher's butt for the AWA tag team title, and we just said, 'Tough luck, old man!' "

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Inside Wrestling

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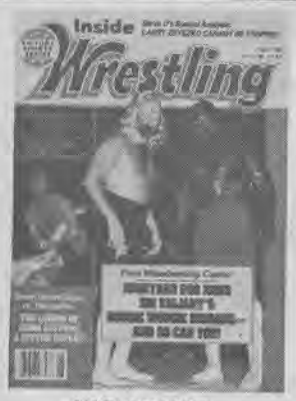
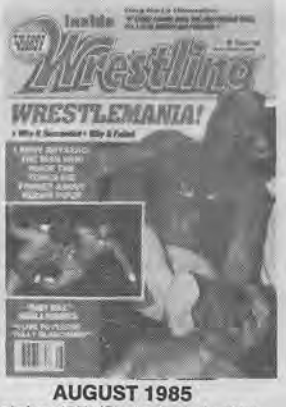


AUGUST 1984

July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbyszko, Heenan, Strongbow.
August 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Sheik, Albano, Ladd.
September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.
November 1974/Stories include: Garvins, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.
June 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Abdullah, LeDuc, Brisco.
August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.
September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.
February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.
March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.
April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.
June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.
August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.
September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.
October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.
November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.
December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.
January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.
February 1977/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Sammartino, Gagne.
May 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Sheik, Race.
August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.
September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.
October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.
November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.
December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.
March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.
April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.
August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.
October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.
November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.
December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.
January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.
February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.
April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.
May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.
June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.
July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.
August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.
September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.



AUGUST 1985

October 1979/Stories include: Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.
November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.
February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.
March 1980/Stories include: Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.
April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.
May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.
June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.
July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blassie.
August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.
September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.
November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.
January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.
February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.
April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.
May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.
June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.
November 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Andre, Snuka.
January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.
February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.
March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.
April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.
February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

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July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

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December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

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May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

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September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

OCTOBER 1982

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Graham, Piper, Mascaras.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

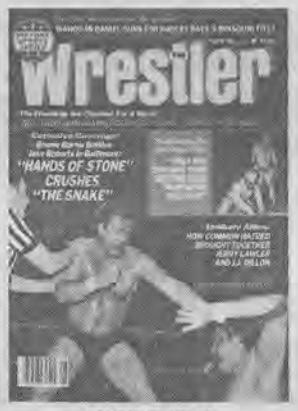
March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.



AUGUST 1984

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

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June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

KENDELL WINDHAM

The backlash created by selecting Kendell Windham as "Wrestler of the Month" began *before* the voting even started, when a letter from a Mr. Arnie Yeager of Lawrence, New York found its way to our desks.

The letter, excerpted here, began ominously: *"So, another branch on another wrestling family tree has sprouted. I wonder how long it will be before Kendell Windham is lauded as the next up-and-coming superstar, the next boy wonder, the next heir-apparent to this and that championship . . . Because that's the way these things usually work don't they? Before a wrestler has even been fitted for a pair of trunks, if he comes from a wrestling family, then his fate is already determined—he is destined only for immortality. If his father or brother or cousin was a champion then he will continue in the tradition. If his relatives were not champions then he will carry the family name to its greatest heights. Therefore, I look forward with great trepidation to the fanfare that will soon be accorded Kendell Windham. The sad thing is he might really be a good wrestler, but with the burden of media expectation already on his young shoulders, I'm uncertain whether he can deal with it."*

Well, Mr. Yeager, I'm afraid you're worst fears are being realized, but before you cancel your subscription, perhaps we can convince you that this Kendell Windham is not the by-product of magazine nepotism but a skilled and polished wrestler in his own right and, believe it or not Mr. Yeager, a champion.

Last month in Tampa, Kendell Windham defeated Jack Hart to capture the Florida championship, a victory that has installed him as one of the early favorites for Rookie of the Year honors. Windham demonstrated an ability beyond his years in defeating the wily Hart, whose own career has skyrocketed since Percy Pringle took over his management.

There can be no doubt that Kendell has benefitted tremendously from the bank of his family's wrestling knowledge. His father, Blackjack Mulligan, has been breathing ring dust for over 30 years, and his brother, Barry, is a two-time world tag team champion. Growing up in such an environment makes Kendell wrestle much older than his 19 years would suggest, although his tenacity, determination, and technical skills are things that cannot be handed down through the generations like tracts of land, nor can they be store bought—they are the products of countless hours of training and practice, of a dedication to perfection, of a blending of mind and body.

For these reasons, Mr. Yeager, and not because he and his brother and father share an occasional Thanksgiving together, we have chosen Kendell Windham as the *Sports Review* Wrestler of the Month. And, without a single pang of conscience, we further urge you to maintain close tabs on what promises to be a spectacular career. No flash-in-the-pan is this Kendell Windham, although to ask his big daddy, Blackjack Mulligan, one isn't so sure.

"Kendell Windham is my son and I love him, but if you're looking for someone to tell you that he is a fabulous wrestler, then you'd better look somewhere else. No 19-year-old rookie is a great wrestler. Come back in 15 years and then we'll have something to talk about."

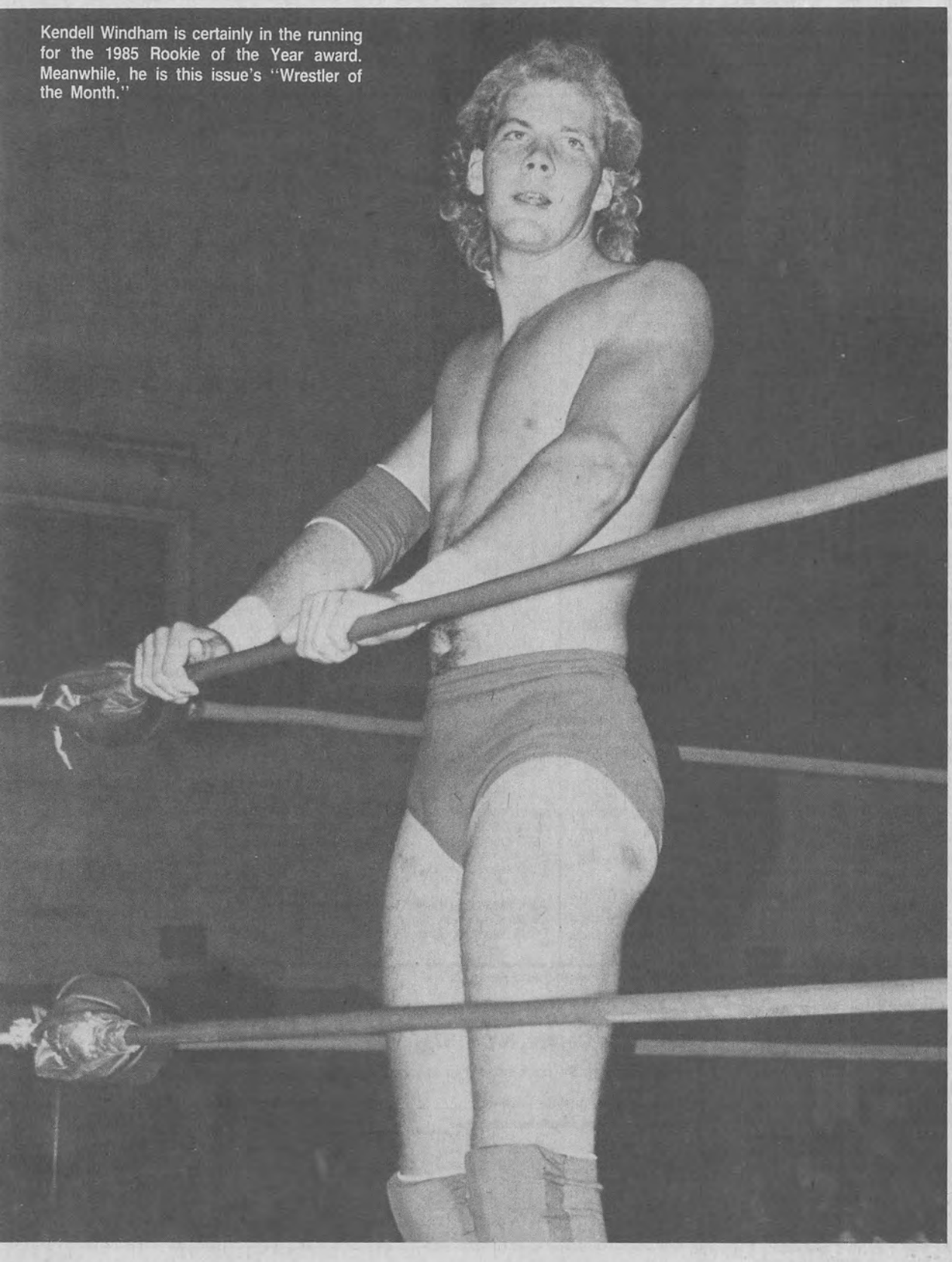
Critics of Windham are quick to point out that his greatest success has come against a wrestler whose career record boasts a hundred more losses than wins. Although Jack Hart has seemed to turn his poor record around under Pringle, a victory over Hart certainly can't be seen as a guarantee for future success. Which brings us full circle back to Mr. Yeager's point, that of the abuse of the superlative when describing young wrestlers. To end this debate once and for all let us listen to the words of he who is involved, the new Florida champion, Kendell Windham.

"My head is spinning from what has gone on in the last month. It's a wonderful honor to be recognized as Wrestler of the Month but like my father said, you can't let things like that go to your head. Jack Hart is not Ric Flair, he's not Rick Martel. It's a thrill to have a championship belt around your waist, but if you don't keep a perspective, you're out on your keester in no time.

"It'd be pretty tough for me to have a swelled head, what with a brother whose a world champ and a father whose idea of success is 20 years at the top of the ratings."

"I'm happy with my progress thus far. Winning the title is going to allow me the opportunity of wrestling against all types of competition and I know I'll come out of ths reign a much better wrestler. As far as I can tell, there is no one out there wrestling who scares me. I think that in time I can even defeat a man like Flair.

"Right now, I'm content with defending my belt and enjoying the scenery here in Florida. I can't wait to get back in the ring and wrestle. Every day, every match, is another challenge. I have a lot of plans for my career and with the support of the fans and my family I'm going to make it big." □



Kendell Windham is certainly in the running for the 1985 Rookie of the Year award. Meanwhile, he is this issue's "Wrestler of the Month."

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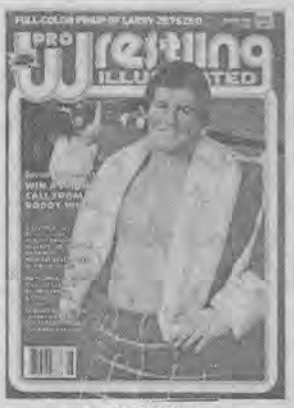


AUGUST 1983

July 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: The Sheik. Cover story: Bruno Sammartino. PLUS: Wrestling II, Race, Ladd, Albano.

August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: Koloff and Smirnoff. Cover story: Bruno vs. Zbyszko. PLUS: Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan.

May 1982/COLOR POSTER: Ric Flair. Cover story: Wrestling II vs. Spoiler. PLUS: Backlund, McDaniel, Piper.

June 1982/COLOR POSTER: Nick Bockwinkel. Cover story: Adonis & Ventura. PLUS: Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR POSTER: Dino Bravo. Cover story: Steamboat & Rich. PLUS: Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

September 1982/COLOR POSTER: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel, AWA Sheiks.

October 1982/COLOR POSTER: Jerry Lawler. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ken Patera. Cover story: Rick Steamboat. PLUS: Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Putski. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Garvin. PLUS: Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR POSTER: Superstar Graham. Cover story: Mil Mascaras. PLUS: Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR POSTER: Cowboy Bob Orton. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Koloff. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Patera, Von Erich, Snuka, Geigel.

August 1983/COLOR POSTER: Larry Zbyszko. Cover story: Roddy Piper. PLUS: Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR POSTER: Roddy Piper. Cover story: Harley Race. PLUS: Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR POSTER: Wahoo McDaniel. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR POSTER: Harley Race. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR POSTER: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Cover story: Greg Valentine. PLUS: Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

April 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rocky Johnson. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Hogan, Andre, Rich, Bundy.

May 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Butch Reed. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR POSTER: Dick Slater. Cover story: Ted DiBiase. PLUS: Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, One Man Gang, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR POSTER: Paul Ellering. Cover story: Jimmy Valiant. PLUS: JYD, Fabulous Ones, Gagne, Windham.

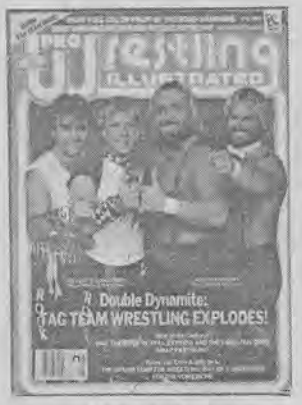
August 1984/COLOR POSTER: Stan Hansen. Cover story: Jerry Lawler. PLUS: Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

September 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hulk Hogan. Cover story: The Road Warriors. SPECIAL FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE—A Look Back At Wrestling In The *PWI* Years.

October 1984/COLOR POSTER: Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. PLUS: Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Sgt. Slaughter. PLUS: Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

December 1984/COLOR POSTER: Kerry Von Erich. Cover story: Barry Windham. PLUS: Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.



MAY 1985

January 1985/COLOR POSTER: Tito Santana. Cover story: Road Warriors. PLUS: Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR POSTER: Magnum T.A. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

March 1985/SPECIAL YEAR-END AWARDS ISSUE! FOUR PAGE COLOR SECTION: Billy Jack, Roddy Piper, Ric Flair vs. Kerry Von Erich; PLUS: 1984—The Year In Review.

April 1985/COLOR POSTER: Ronnie Garvin. Cover story: Jimmy Snuka. PLUS: Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

May 1985/COLOR POSTER: Road Warriors. SPECIAL TAG TEAM ISSUE! Cover story: Fabulous Ones & Rock 'n' Roll Express. PLUS: Windham & Rotundo, Von Erich & Billy Haynes, *PWI* Rates Top 15 teams.

June 1985/COLOR POSTER: Barry Windham. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, Magnum T.A.

July 1985/COLOR POSTER: Sgt. Slaughter. Cover story: Hogan vs. Piper. PLUS: Road Warriors, One Man Gang, Magnum T.A., Martel.

JUNE 1985

August 1985/COLOR POSTER: Rock 'n' Roll Express. Cover story: Von Erichs. PLUS: Slaughter, Hogan, NWA scouting reports.

September 1985/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Magnum T.A. PLUS: Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR POSTER: Chris Adams. Cover story: Steamboat. PLUS: Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

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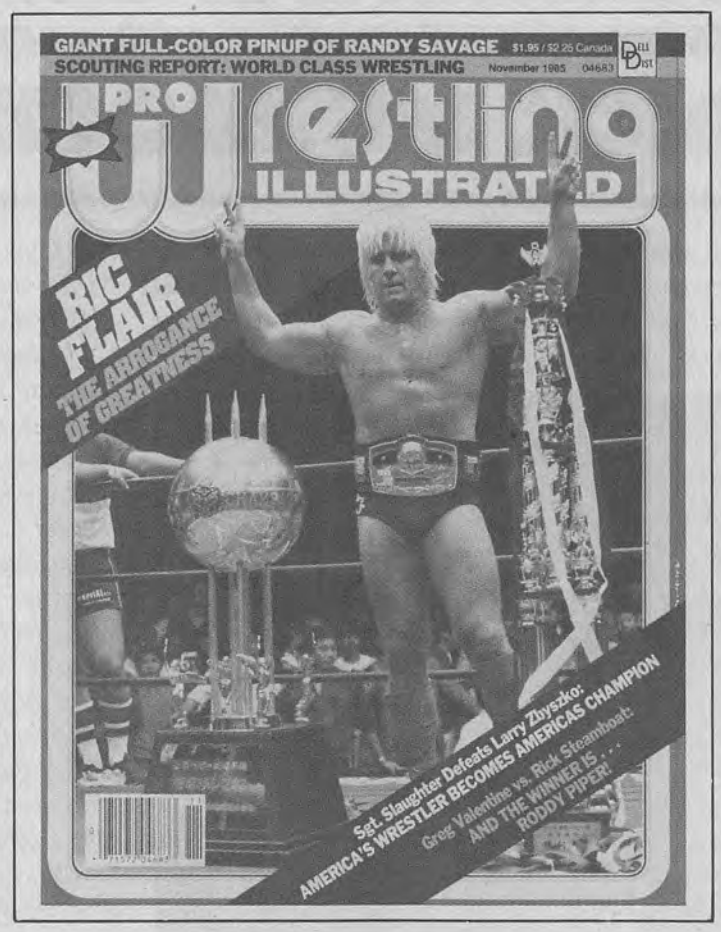
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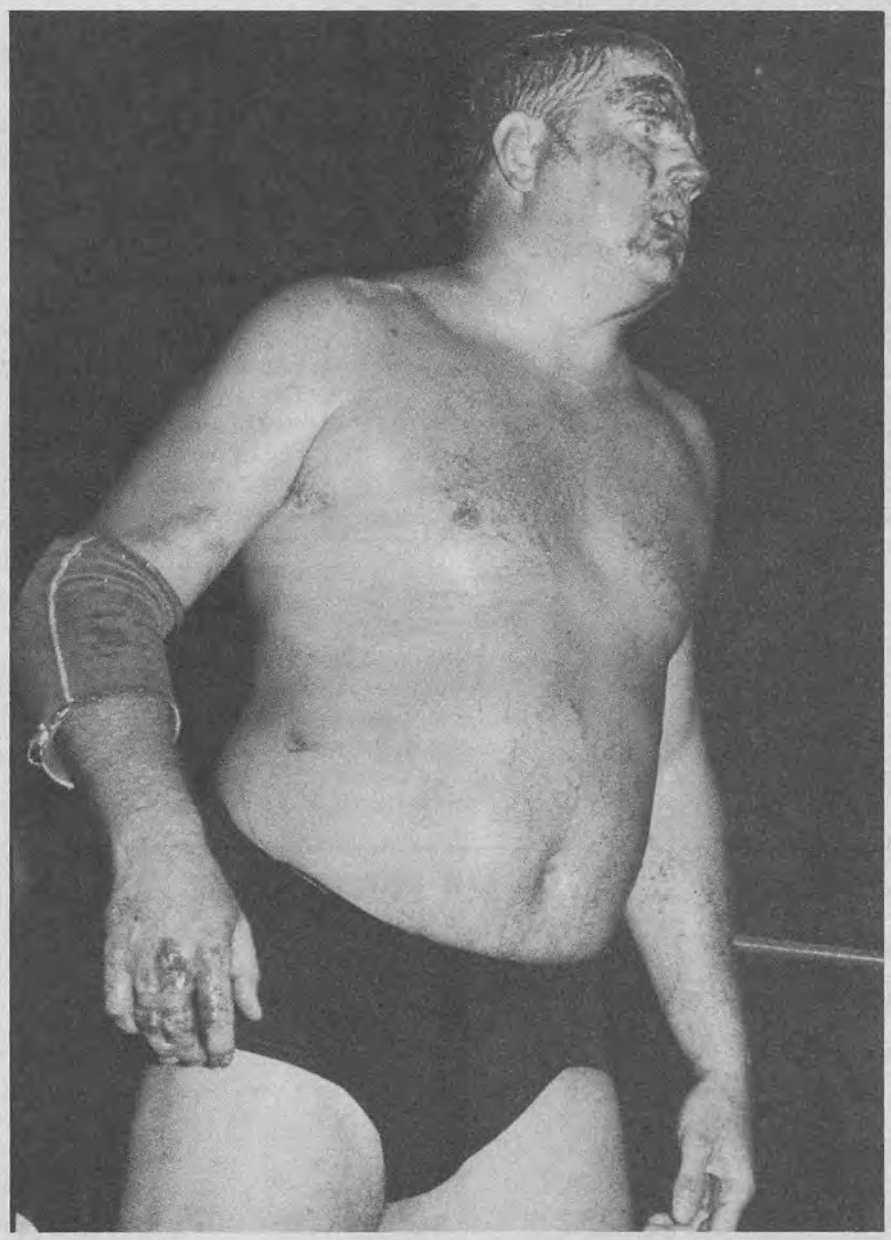
INTERVIEW

DICK MURDOCH

The Mid-South has been afire with action in recent months. The region must now be considered as talented and diverse as any area in professional wrestling. If you're unfamiliar with the news as you're reading this modest blurb, you may be surprised by the name of the man who recently won the Mid-South's most prestigious belt, the North American title.

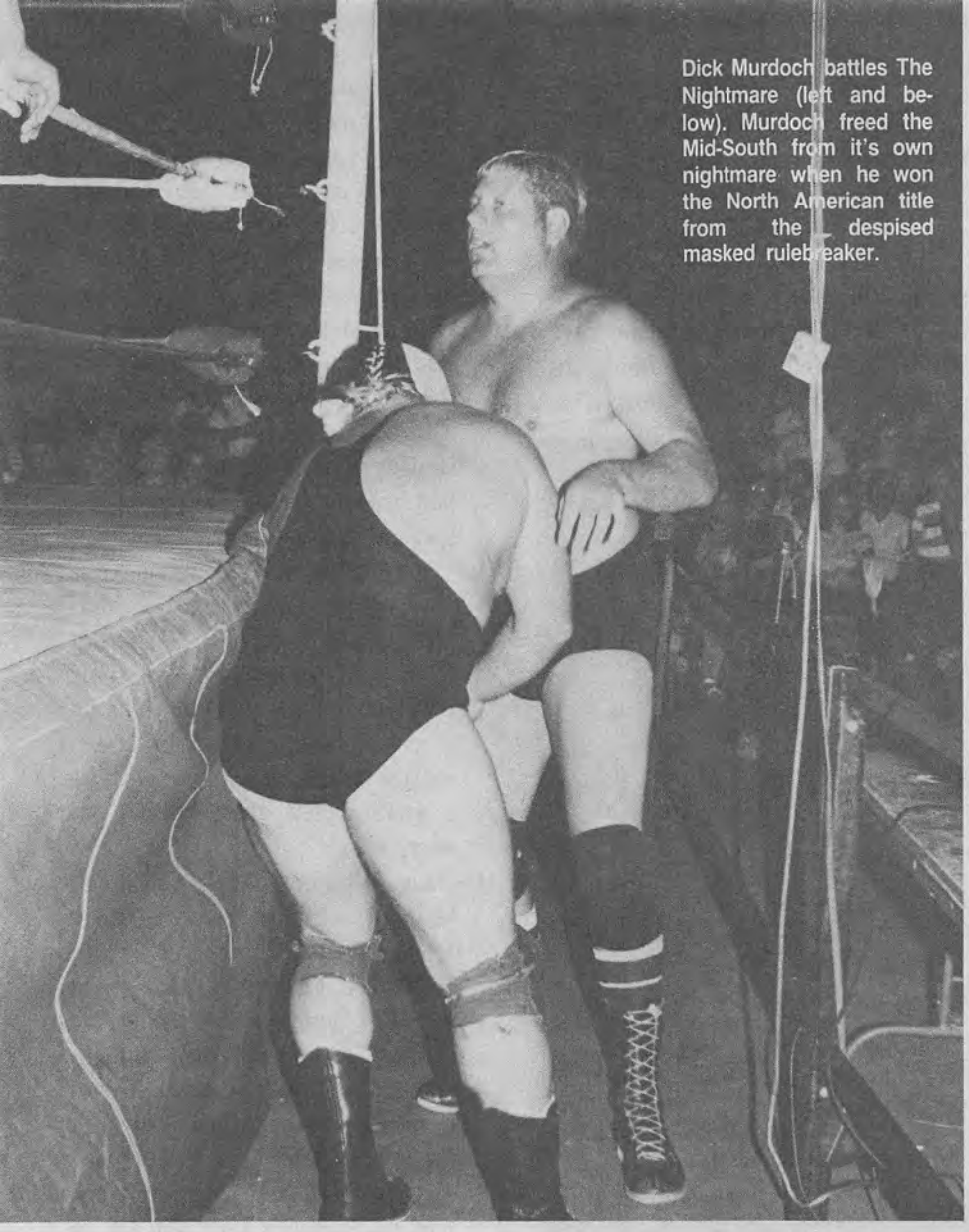


Dirty Dick Murdoch.

Murdoch has always been one of the foremost talents in wrestling, but he has gone about winning dozens of major singles and tag team titles in somewhat low-key fashion over the past two decades. Part of the reason for his startling lack of celebrity lies in his character. He is unpretentious in a sport that rewards egomaniacs and preening pretty boys with big contracts. He is dogged, workmanlike, and extremely efficient in the ring without making fans gasp by executing dropkicks or superfly leaps. Although the public perception makes him out as a brawler, he is in fact equally skilled at scientific wrestling and duking it out. It would be no exaggeration to call him one of the most underrated grapplers in the sport.

Murdoch's stunning victory over the Nightmare for the North American title has been wildly applauded by Mid-South fans, who have granted him acceptance that he hasn't experienced since he wrestled in Georgia in 1983. Given a little time, he may well surpass Hacksaw Duggan as the area's most popular wrestler—especially if he employs his "Captain Redneck" persona to rid the region of hated managers Skandor Akbar and J. Oliver Humperdink.

Assistant Editor Jim Schuermann had a dressing room chat with Murdoch that covered a wide variety of provocative topics.



Dick Murdoch battles The Nightmare (left and below). Murdoch freed the Mid-South from it's own nightmare when he won the North American title from the despised masked rulebreaker.

Q: Congratulations on winning the North American title, Mr. Murdoch.

A: Why, thank ya! And call me Dick, sir. (Laughing.)

Q: Okay, Dick. A lot of fans would like to know more about your recent switch back to fan favorite status in the Mid-South region. After all, you were considered to be a hated rulebreaker in the WWF when you co-held the tag team title there with Adrian Adonis.

A: Whoa, hold on there a minute, hoss! I don't think it's much of a change at all. I've always rassled rough and tough, Rio Grande style, and I never change a lick whether the fans cheer or boo. I *like* the fans' cheers, ya understand, but a heck of a lot depends on who you're rasslin'.

Q: Well, here in the Mid-South you're wrestling more scientifically than you did in the WWF. For example, you're using the brainbuster again in your repertoire.

A: That's why I wanted to go back to singles wrestling. (Pause.) In my last few WWF matches, I used the brainbuster—and they were singles matches.

Q: You mean to say that teaming with Adonis cramped your style, your technique?

A: Naw, naw, not cramped—just different. We were a solid team, but we had two separate roles. Adrian was the high-flyin', scientific dude—lemme tell ya, hoss, he's got one of the best dropkicks in the business. Ya know I was never much for aerial tactics, really, so I was the enforcer—I put the hurt on with the elbowsmashes and headlocks and a few chops and kicks where need be. I *knew* the science, but that wasn't my role. Now lemme ask *you* a friendly question—how come me and Adrian were never rated higher than number four in your magazine's tag team ratings, and how come you guys never wrote a feature story on us?

Q: Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that you and Adonis

were totally uncooperative with the press. But that's in the past. The present sees you as North American champ. Who do you consider your toughest challengers?

A: Everybody. (Smiles.) If there's one thing you learn if you been around as long as I have, it's that any rassler who wins a lot of matches can knock your lights out any day of the week if you're not careful. (Pause.) But I'd put guys like Duggan, Roberts, maybe DiBiase, on the top of the list.

Q: Speaking of Jake Roberts, did you have anything top do with his conversion to fan favorite?

A: I'm proud to say that I did, son. I sat him down in a mighty fine honky-tonk east of Laredo and tried to settle his worried mind. I told him he don't need scum like The Barbarian and Humperdink to win matches. He can brawl if he wants to, but, like I told him, he's gotta be careful about his friends.

Q: Just out of curiosity, how would you have reacted if, say, Tito Santana or Jimmy Snuka approached you in the WWF and warned you that you'd be better off as a fan favorite?

A: I probably woulda punched their lights out. (Roars merrily.) Naw, that's different, son. I'm a veteran. I've seen it all, and my advice has *value.* Jake thinks he's seen it all, but heck, he's still just a kid, really. But like I said before, I never really changed my style anyway.

Q: Is The Midnight Rider Bill Watts?

A: (Laughing.) I don't know if it's Watts, but I do know it sure ain't Dusty Rhodes! Seriously, if a guy wants to rassle wearin' a mask, it's his own damn beeswax. Skandor Akbar's a fink for having Cowboy Bill's license suspended. There ain't no damn law what says a promoter can't rassle! Even if I thought it was Bill, anyway, I wouldn't say so. It's his own damn beeswax. And lemme tell ya, Mr. Watts is a straight shooter all the way. The best promoters are, generally speakin', ex-rasslers.

Murdoch shows his scientific flair with a perfect backdrop of The Nightmare during the bout in which "Capt. Redneck" took the North American title (above). Murdoch can also brawl, and here he is bloody but unbowed as he tries to remove the mask from his hated opponent (below).

Q: There's a lot of hedging in your voice when you discuss The Midnight Rider's identity. I'm not making any accusations, but some people may think that you're trying to protect your contract by covering for Watts.

A: I won't dignify that with an answer, hoss.

Q: Okay. Why don't I ask you about Skandor Akbar and Oliver Humperdink.

A: Huh! You know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna wring them little turkeys' necks until they strangulate and strip their feathers. Things were bad enough around here with the Ay-rab settin' fire to Hacksaw Duggan's face and such, and now that fat Rooster's here. But I'll ya what, boy—they're both afraid of me. The Mid-South fans are in good hands with Capt. Redneck.

Q: Capt. Redneck. You know, he's become a fairly controversial character over the years. Some critics allege that your nationalism is bad for wrestling because it encourages mindless yahoo patriotism; others contend that wrestling patriotism defeats its own purpose, that it actually encourages foreign wrestlers to inflict pain and suffering upon their American counterparts.

A: (Pause.) The Captain ain't perfect, but he gets the job done. First off, to answer the first part of that there, there ain't nothin' wrong with patriotism. Period. Sure there are some weirdos in the Klan and such who misuse the flag and do rotten things in its name, but that

ain't no reflection on Old Glory. Uh, second, I'm not sure. But I don't *think* guys like the Captain encourage foreigners to spit on the flag. We chase 'em away. Like, me and Dusty chased The Iron Sheik outta Georgia two years ago, and he ain't been back since. Sgt. Slaughter did a job on that Sheik Adnan-whatever character in the AWA [Adnan al-Kaissie] and he high-tailed it all the way back to the sand dunes. Naw, I think patriotism is damn good for the country, and for rasslin!

Q: You've had a long and illustrious career, Dick. Let me ask you the names of the wrestlers you consider to be the toughest opponents you've ever faced.

A: Hoooo-wheee! That's a tough one, hoss. The first names that come to my mind have to be the Funk brothers. Yep, Dory Jr. and Terry—you'll never see tougher hombres in the ring. I would have liked to have rassled Dory Sr. when he was in his prime, too. And I gotta mention Jack Brisco, the best damn scientific tomcat I ever tangled with. Man oh man, I came close to winning his NWA title, but I *just* missed out on it. I was sorry to hear he retired so young—he and his brother, Jerry, gave Adrian and me some bitter brawls up until the end. Then there's Andre the Giant—yeah, he's some kinda rugged. We nearly sent each other to Boot Hill in some of our matches, but I've come to realize what a helluva nice guy he is if ya take the time to sit down and play a little poker and hash things out with him. Yeah, he's gotta big ol' heart wide as the open prairie.

Q: Finally, Dick, what are your immediate goals now that you're back in the NWA Top 10?

A: You just answered your own question, hoss. You'll notice I didn't mention Ric Flair as one of my toughest opponents. I know I can beat him. I've held more titles than I remember, but I *need* that title to make my life complete. □

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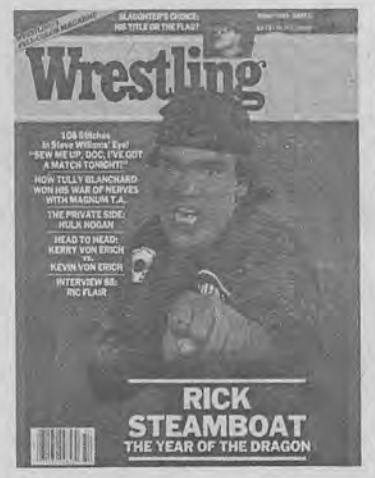

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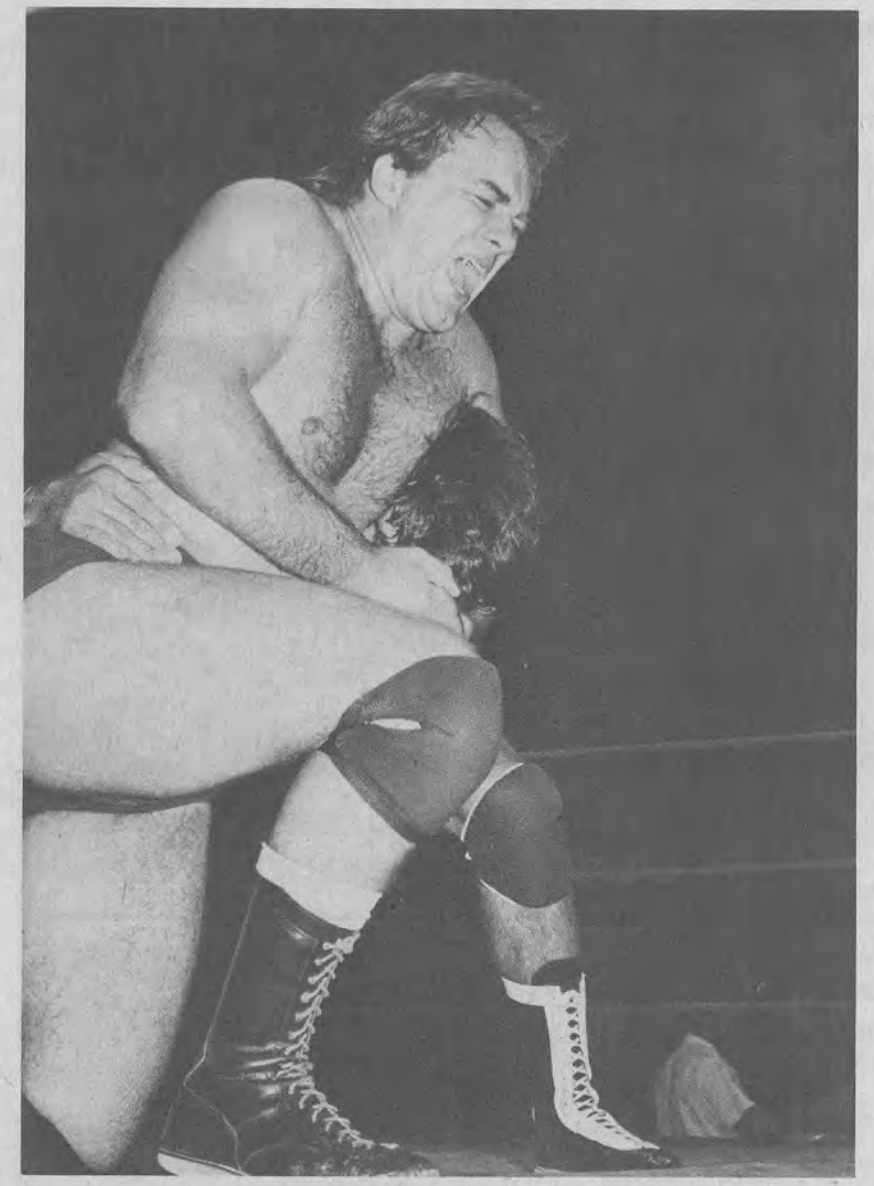


HOW LARRY ZBYSZKO'S BIG MOUTH COST HIM THE AWA TITLE

Larry Zbyszko keeps his mouth moving even while holding Rick Martel in a side headlock! Zbyszko's penchant for chattering may bring about his downfall.

THE MEADOWLANDS ARE not aptly named. Dry caked soil, devoid of nutrients, surrounds the athletic complex on all sides. New Jerseyites habitually compare it to the crater-pocked surface of the moon, or other landmarks of extraterrestrial desolation.

None of this mattered to Larry Zbyszko. He stood in the approximate center of the vast landfill and harkened an ear toward the mild roar of the freeway at dusk. "Listen to that! Listen to that! All those idiots are coming out to see the world's greatest wrestler win the championship of the world!" Zbyszko bellowed like a bull elephant and spread his arms out toward the sky. "Tonight, the New Living Legend will reign *supreeeme!*" Superimposed against the distant poured white concrete of the Brendan Byrne Meawdowlands Arena, Zbyszko assumed the pose of a deity-conqueror on flat earth and grinned.

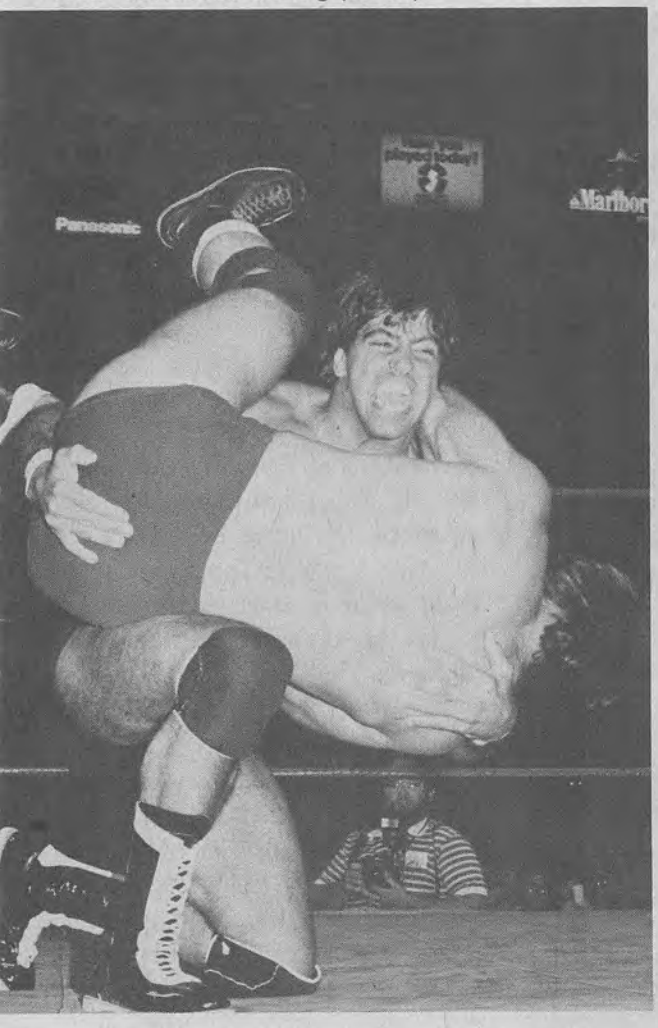
Yet, the skies did not open for Larry Zbyszko. The *Jesus Christ Superstar* overture may have been thundering in his head, but no mere mortal trumpeted hosannas on the landfill. Larry Zbyszko had a match in less than two hours, so he had to walk his egomania back over to the arena.

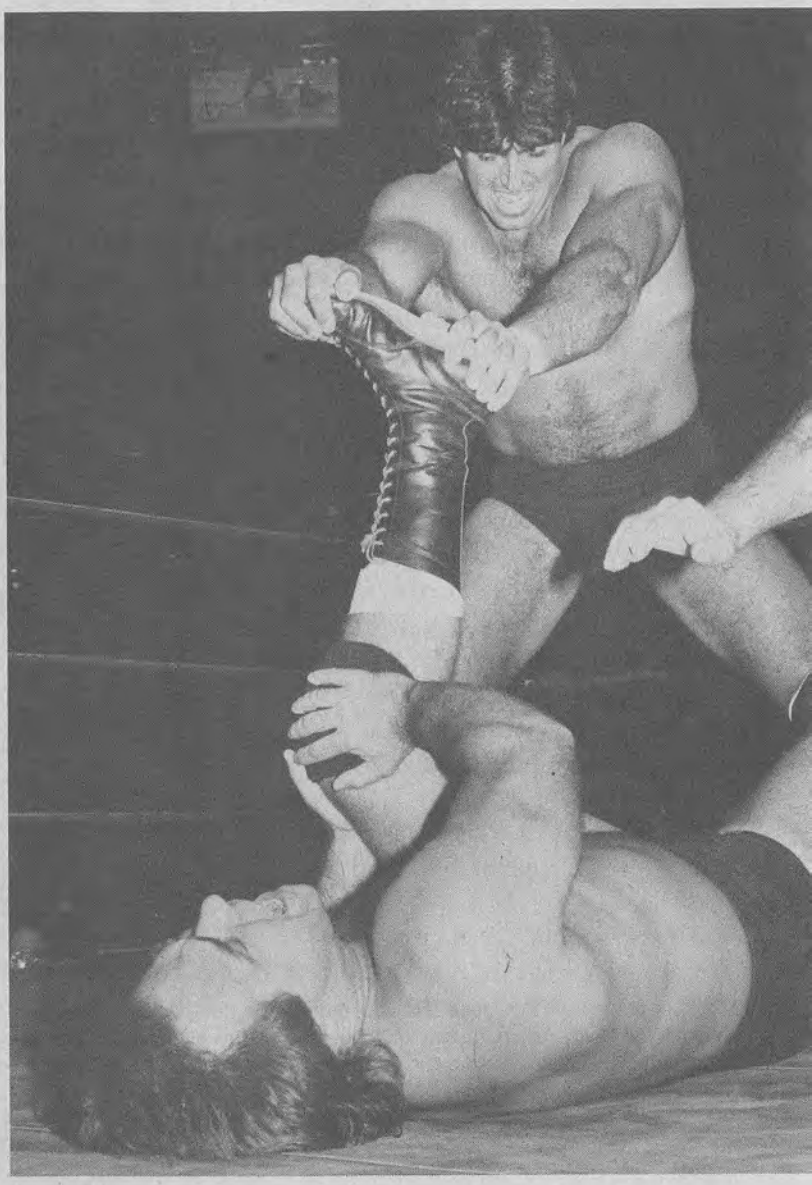
The trouble started outside the dressing room. Fans. Always fans. A few males bearing quarts of malt liquor were loitering near the back entrance. "Hey Larry, dat's a pretty joggin' suit," one of the fellows cracked. "Yo, yo," a husky chum wearing a CAT cap snickered, "powder blue, it almos' matches the color o' your eyes!" The compadres chuckled heartily, and Zbyszko could barely restrain himself. He turned reddish-purple, shouted

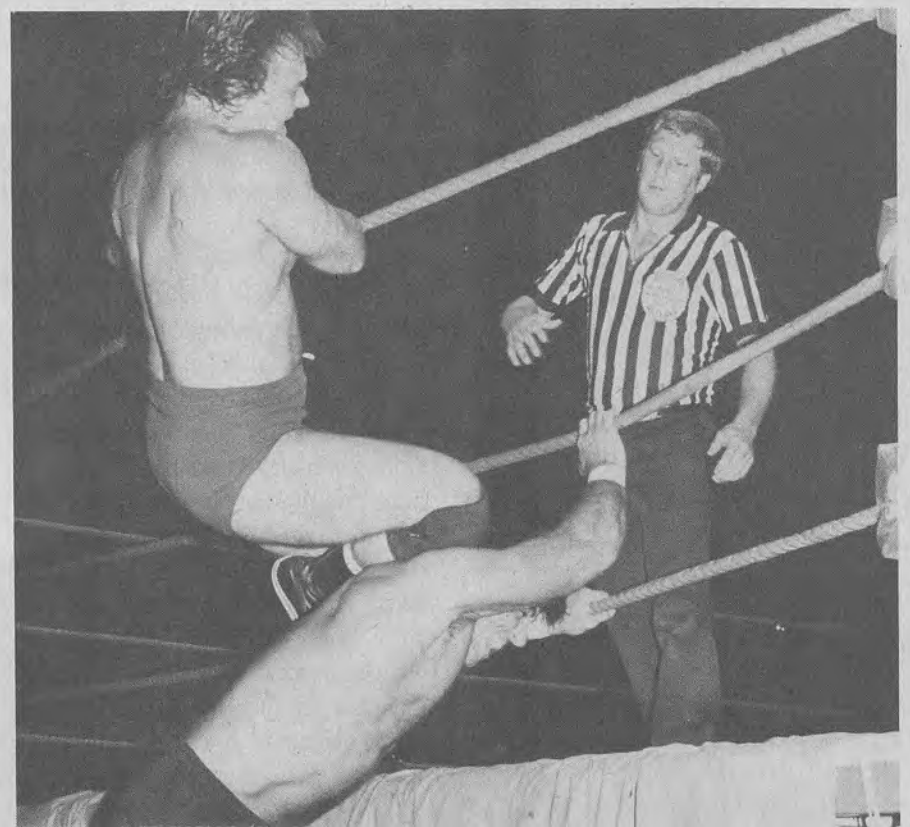
Larry Zbyszko is arguably the toughest competition that Rick Martel has for the AWA World Championship. However, he must learn to keep his mind in the ring and not at ringside if he expects to have a reasonable chance of winning the title

Photos by Chaz Fenn

The Martel-Zbyszko title match was a hard-fought, closely contested bout. Martel used classic maneuvers like the backbreaker (below) and standing toehold (right) to weaken Zbyszko. Zbyszko evened things up with a bevy of illegal tactics, including this knee to the back of the head while Martel was outside the ring (bottom).







hoarse vulgarities, and tore off his jogging suit in a furious attempt to rip it to shreds. Much to the parking lot hecklers' amusement, Zbyszko couldn't manage even a slight tear. Flustered beyond belief, he discarded it in a trash bin and quickly ducked inside the arena. The obligatory chants of "BRUNO! BRUNO! BRUNO!" shredded his ears before the security guard slammed the heavy door.

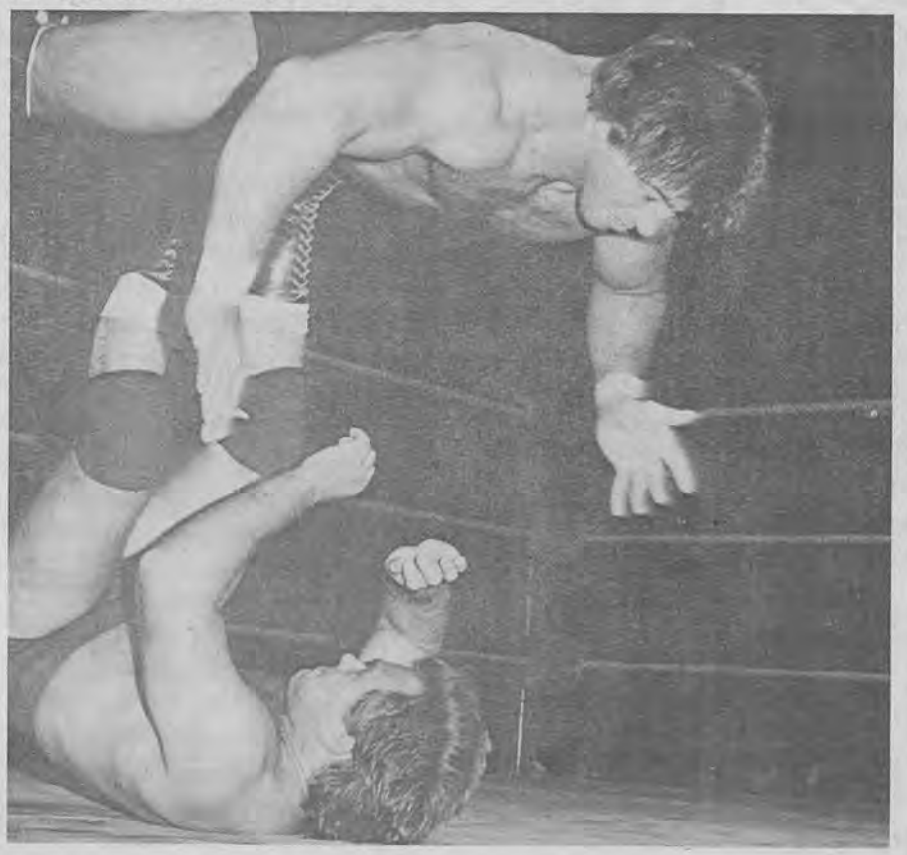
An hour's pacing in the dressing room restored Zbyszko's composure a little, and he was able to converse with only his typical measure of hyperactivity. "You know what I'm gonna do with this dumb Canuck tonight?" he told a reporter. "I'm gonna outsmart him. I'm gonna make him lose that infamous French Canadian temper of his and he won't know which end is up. In fact, that's my strategy. We'll

wrestle scientifically, he'll get sloppy, and he'll wind up with his end up and his shoulders down for a three-count. Or a four-, five-, or six-count, depending on how much the referee's getting paid tonight.

"See, Ranger Rick can't handle the pressure of being champion. He just can't understand why professional wrestlers don't always prance around like gentlemen and pat each other on the fannies after a nice maneuver.

"Rulebreaking drives him crazy! But you gotta be subtle with it," Zbyszko continued. "Like my good friend Nick Bockwinkel says, *everything* is legal in the ring until the referee counts five. You can't just choke a guy for 10 minutes or cut him open with a foreign object unless you don't *care* about being disqualified. If you wanna win, wear a guy down with four-second chokeholds and hide the groin kicks. That's exactly what I'm gonna do tonight: science mixed with *subtle* rulebreaking."

It was a grim, determined Larry Zbyszko who sauntered down the aisle toward the ring. At first, the crowd reaction was somewhat subdued; perhaps the East Coast fans had forgotten most of the hatred they expended upon Zbyszko in 1980 and 1981 when he had his famous feud with Bruno Sammartino. In the ring, Zbyszko and Martel faced each other with expressions of the gravest solemnity. Maybe Zbyszko had been right; Martel looked to be at the point of imploding with rage already. Would it turn out to be an easy task to ignite Martel's simmering fury?



Zbyszko comes off the ropes and is captured in a fine backdrop (above). Zbyszko is a fine scientific wrestler when he wants to be, as Martel learns after becoming a victim of a monkey flip (below). Zbyszko may have learned a lesson in this bout: Wrestling is a sport that takes full concentration.

After a minute or so of feeling each other out, the war of nerves burst open like a bullet-punctured balloon. Some ringsiders, fed up with what they perceived to be the evasiveness of Zbyszko's intitial caution, began to heckle. A few of the comments were unprintable; all were disrespectful. Zbyszko's eyes widened. Then he heard the ugliest vulgarity he could imagine, the very last word he wanted to hear: "BRUNO! BRUNO! BRUNO! . . "

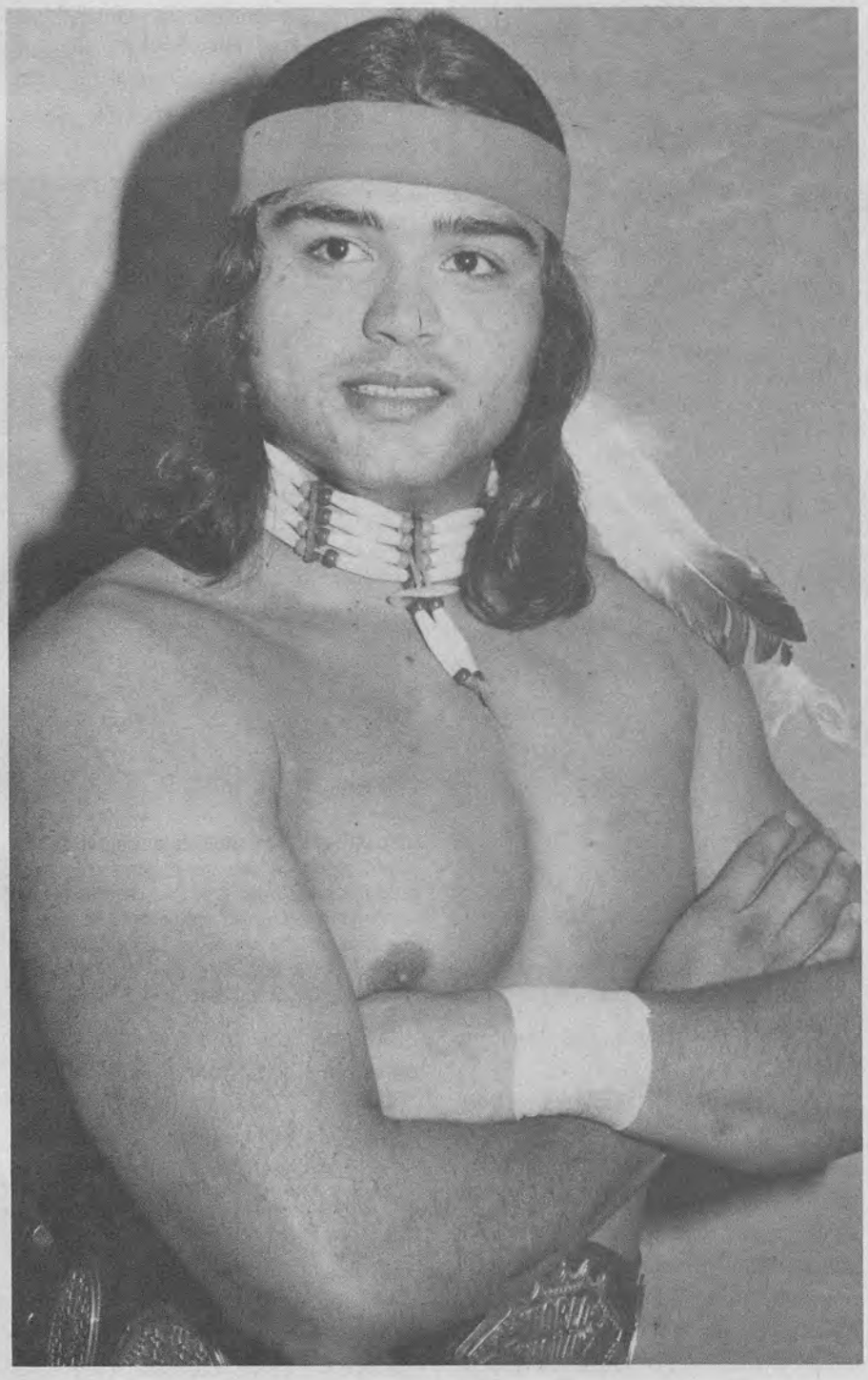
It was more than Zbyszko could take. He started jabbering back at the discontents, defending his honor verbally like a scorned prince on trial. Martel snickered to himself and knew he had his opening. He rushed in. Takedown. Astonished, Zbyszko squirmed for a defense against the champion's leglock.

The match continued at that pace. Zbyszko spent far too much time hollering at the fans, dividing his concentration between his detractors and his opponent. Martel seemed to anticipate every "subtle" bit of rulebreaking, which wasn't surprising: Zbyszko would preface every chokehold, every attempted kick and punch with an angry rejoinder to the ringsiders. Martel found it easy to defense Zbyszko's clumsy cheating; Larry's intemperate crowd-baiting ruined the stylized startegy that he had formulated before the match.

The end came swiftly, as Zbyszko fell prey to a slick small package combination for an undeniable three-count. As he left the ring, in seeming disbelief, he heard admonishment from one of the few fans he had in the arena: "Larry, you should have kept your big damn mouth shut and wrestled!"

In seeming disbelief, Zbyszko nodded his head from side to side, but it should have been affirmative. Apparently, Polish temper, when blended with the proper spicy dash of egomania, can be just as volatile as the French Canadian brand. □

A TRIBUTE TO JAY YOUNGBLOOD



Jay Youngblood was a sensational wrestler who captured more championship titles in his brief 12-year career than most men achieve in an entire lifetime. But Jay Youngblood recently died at the young age of 30. He will be sorely missed

By Bill Apter

THE PASSING OF greatness is always an occasion to mourn. The death of Jay Youngblood is even more painful to me, as I knew him personally and had the rare privilege to call him my friend.

The phone call came early on the morning of September 3. The voice on the other end of the line was characterized by that chilling lack of emotion that is always there, or not there, when bad news is to follow. And the news was very bad indeed: Jay Youngblood had died two days earlier while on a wrestling tour in Sydney, Australia.

Jay had been wrestling in Australia with his brother, Mark, since mid-June, and the pair had captured the Commonwealth tag team title.

In early August, Jay began complaining that his ribs were bothering him. The problem seemed to be more

Above: Jay ensnares Ray Stevens in his favorite hold: the sleeper. Right: Although relatively short and lightweight, Jay possessed considerable power—as he demonstrates to Cyclone Negro.

Left: Jay and Rick Steamboat held the NWA World tag team title three times, first winning the belts from Sgt. Slaughter and Don Kernodle in a brutal cage match. Above: Jay flies off the ropes as Steamboat holds Jack Brisco's arm. Jay and Rick won the NWA tag title twice from the Briscos.

than just a few bruised bones resulting from a match, so Mark decided to take his brother to the hospital in Melbourne. It was determined there that Jay was suffering from a pancreatic condition. While in the hospital, Jay's pancreas condition worsened. He suffered three heart attacks and died.

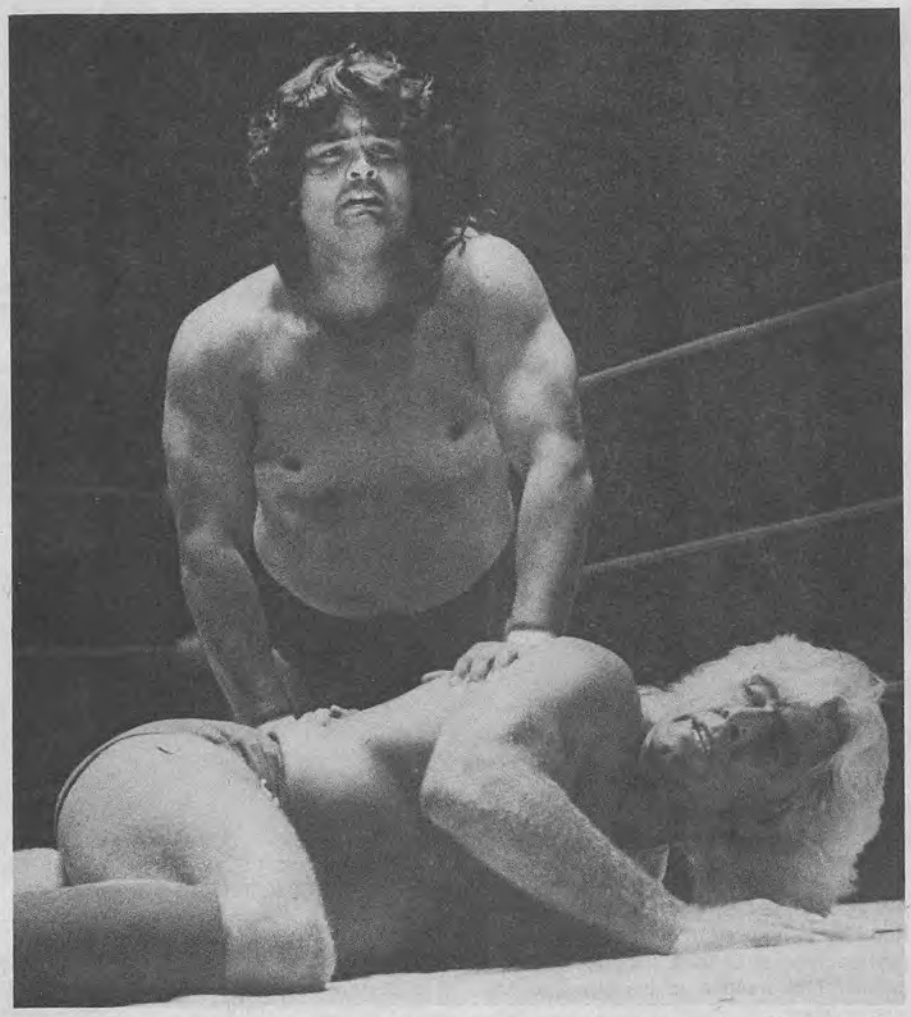
Born in Amarillo, Texas, Jay was the son of Ricky and Stella Romero. Ricky Romero, a wrestling star in his own right, still makes his home in Amarillo.

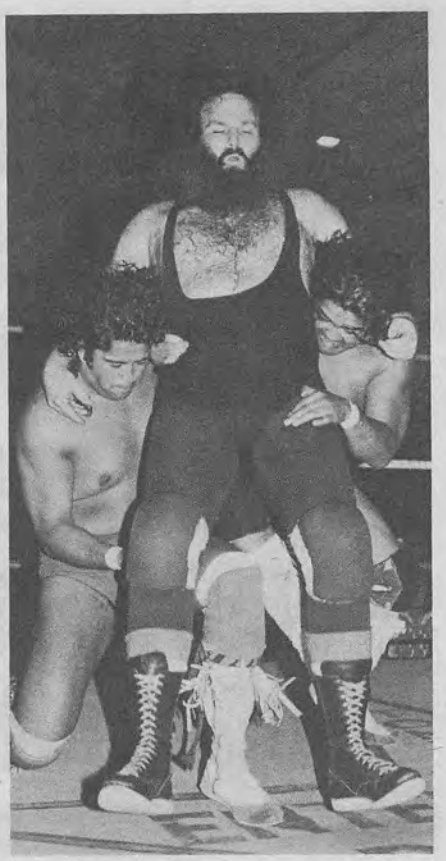
Jay began wrestling in high school, and won several local high school wrestling championships. While in high school, Jay began training for a pro career under the watchful eye of his father. When it came time to make his pro debut, Jay adopted his mother's maiden name: Youngblood. Jay was clearly proud of his Indian heritage.

His professional debut came in 1973 in San Angelo, Texas. From there, Jay wrestled in Dallas and then in the Pacific Northwest, where he captured the PNW heavyweight title from Playboy Buddy Rose.

But it was in the Carolinas that Jay achieved his greatest success. In tag team partnership with Rick Steamboat, Jay held one half of the NWA World tag team title on three occasions:

- On March 12, 1983, Steamboat and Youngblood won the belts from Sgt. Slaughter and Don Kernodle in a bloody cage match in Greensboro, North Carolina. They held the title until Jack and Jerry Brisco won the belts on June 18, 1983, in Greenville, South Carolina.
- Steamboat and Youngblood regained the belts from the Briscos on October 3, 1983, in Greenville, South Carolina. They held the title for 18 days; Jack and Jerry Brisco regained the championship on October 21, 1983, in Richmond, Virgina.
- Steamboat and Youngblood once again regained the belts from the Briscos on November 24, 1983, in Greensboro, North Carolina. They held





Above: Jay received several title matches against NWA World champion Ric Flair, and always gave Flair a tough fight. Above right: During an early 1985 tour for Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Jay and his brother Mark wrestled The Alaskans. Below: Jay and Mark are mobbed by their fans after a match in Florida.

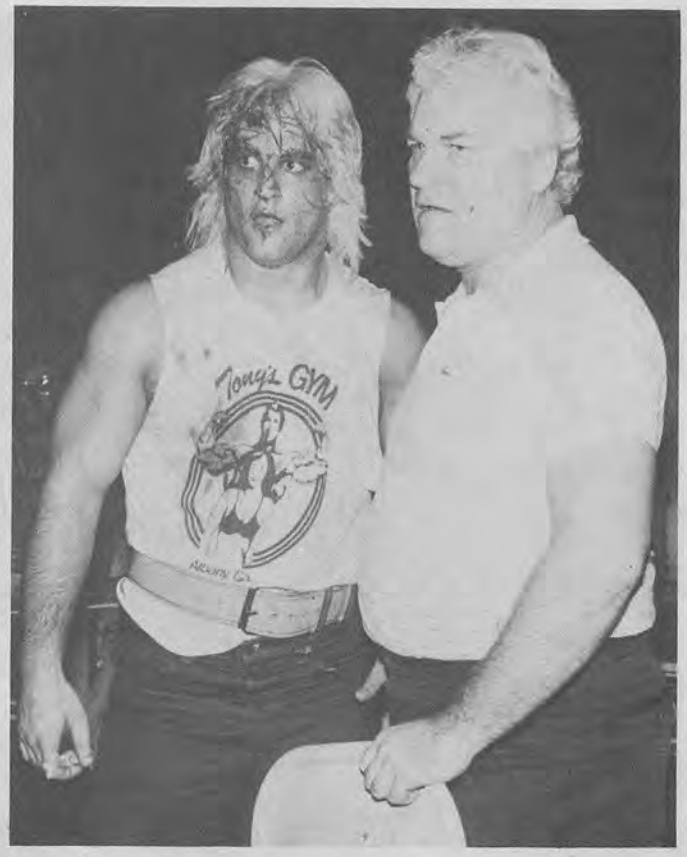
the title for about six weeks, but had to vacate the championship when Steamboat decided to retire from wrestling in order to devote his full time and attention to Steamboat's Mid-Atlantic Gym.

Most recently, Jay wrestled in Florida, where he teamed with Mark to capture the U.S. tag team belts from Krusher Khrushchev and Jim Neidhardt. From Florida, Jay and Mark went on a tour for the Pro Wrestling U.S.A. promotion, then to Puerto Rico, and finally to Australia.

Mark remembers Jay "as a man who was always concerned about his matches. He would discuss upcoming matches days in advance, trying to plot match strategy very carefully. As a person, he was the kindest, most loving person I've ever known. We weren't really that close when he first started wrestling, because we were separated so often and for so long by a lot of miles. But for the last couple of years, as we began to team and stay together regularly, I learned what a great human being my brother really is."

Jay Youngblood: dead at the age of 30. The wrestling world will always remember him. □

HOW J.J. DILLON'S HATRED FOR RON BASS IS DESTROYING BUDDY LANDELL



MORE OFTEN THAN not, Buddy Landell is a thoughtless rulebreaker whose disrespect for the laws of the ring is exceeded only by his disrespect for his opponents. But even his harshest critics had to feel something akin to sympathy for the bleached blond after his handsome surfer's mug was rendered bloody by the thunderous attack of Ron Bass.

Sympathy because Landell was merely a pawn in a human chess game orchestrated by his manager, J.J. Dillon, who was attempting in the worst way to exact revenge from Ron Bass' cowboy hide. Landell, who has never expressed a desire to take control of his own mat career, is showing questionable intelligence in this latest go-round with Dillon; it is obvious to everyone involved—except Landell—that Dillon is using him to get at Bass.

Above: A bloody Buddy Landell joins his manager, J.J. Dillon, at ringside. Below: Ron Bass, who used to be in Dillon's stable, pounds away at Landell. Landell is Dillon's number one weapon in his personal war against Bass.

One must go back almost six months to untangle the sordid mess that the three men now find themselves in. It was then that Bass and Landell, both under contract to Dillon, became one of the most formidable tag teams in the Mid-Atlantic area. Dillon's treacherous strategy complemented Bass and Landell's wide-open, brawling style and the three seemed on their way to an inevitable showdown against the NWA championship team of Ivan and Nikita Koloff, a match that had even the most jaded Carolina wrestling fan salivating.

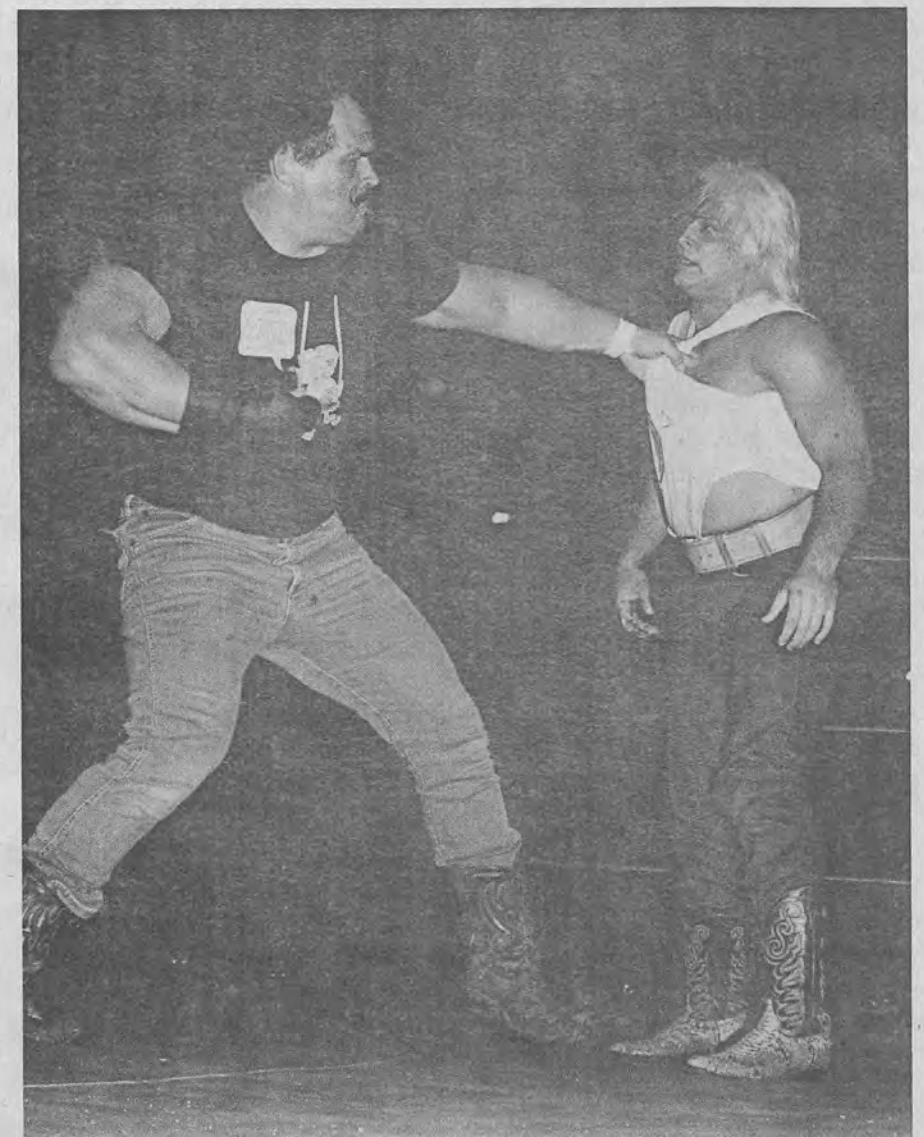
Into this partnership was now thrown a monkey wrench in the golden hue of NWA champion Ric Flair. Dillon had secured an open contract against Flair and designated his youngest thoroughbred—Landell—as the man to fight for the title. Bass, a 13-year

Knowing Ron Bass' peerless record in bunkhouse matches didn't prevent J.J. Dillon from signing his charge, Buddy Landell, for one against the Cowboy. In so doing, Dillon erased all doubt that he placed the safety of those he manages over personal vengeance

Photos by Bill Apter

veteran of the mat wars, bristled at what he considered an inexcusable slight. He confronted Dillon and demanded that he remove Landell from the contract and assign him the opportunity to battle Flair. Dillon ignored the suggestion, saying at the time that "I'll be damned if I'm gonna allow some wrestling flunky to tell me how to run my business. I know what's good for Landell, I know what's good for Bass, and I know what's good for me, and if Bass doesn't like it he can go back to his Texas shantytown and suck dust."

Dillon's words didn't go very far in patching things up between himself and Bass, and the feud was on. Landell got his day against Ric Flair and was defeated rather easily. The young man obviously lacked the experience to compete evenly with the tough



Above: Bass uses his leather belt to whip some good sense into Landell—who isn't listening. Left: Bass continues the attack, unloading a series of rights to the head of the "Nature Boy."

NWA champion. Bass was at ringside for their battle and afterward had a few choice words for both his former manager and his former tag team partner.

"Y'see this damn match tonight? Did you see what Flair did to Landell? Dillon knew this would all happen. Landell's just a kid. He's too green to be thrown into the ring with Flair. I deserved that title match. I've been wrestling since before Landell knew what goes where. Dillon's just been waiting to give me the needle. Well, I don't need him. I'll get my own title shots, but in the meantime, I'm after Dillon.

"As for Landell, well, if he stands in my way I'm not gonna hesitate to smash him to bits. If he was half a man, he woulda stepped aside and let me wrestle Flair. I've helped that kid out so

(Continued on page 54)

AROUND THE WORLD WITH HULK HOGAN

The ever industrious, always hospitable Japanese greeted WWF champion Hulk Hogan with smiles and sushi, although the local wrestling establishment tried its hardest to remove Mr. Hogan's belt from his waist

JAPAN, AS MORE than one foreign correspondent stationed here has noted, is the most dangerous kind of narcotic, an addiction of not only the soul but the body, not only of the palate, but of the psyche. For the unwary visitor, the tranquility of this island nation serves as a hypnotic antecedent for what is soon revealed to be the indomitable and serious Japanese character.

"Never trust that smile," said veteran journalist Matt Brock once, after he had returned from a month's tour of duty throughout Japan. "As nice as they are, the Japanese have razors for brains and they won't hesitate to cut you with them. I've seen businessmen feted like royalty who leave Japan thinking they had outsmarted their hosts only to return home and find their businesses taken out from under them."

The Land of the Rising Sun has played host to a number of conflicts, and the results, since the devastation of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, have been alarmingly pro-Nipponese. The past decade has seen Toyota and Nissan turn the robots of Ford and General Motors into monkeys, while Sony and Mitsubishi have shown Panasonic that they're slightly ahead of their time.

Working with an industry almost religious in its fervor, Japan has quietly risen from the atomic fallout of the Second World War to become the world's economic and social leader, striding confidently into the 21st century.

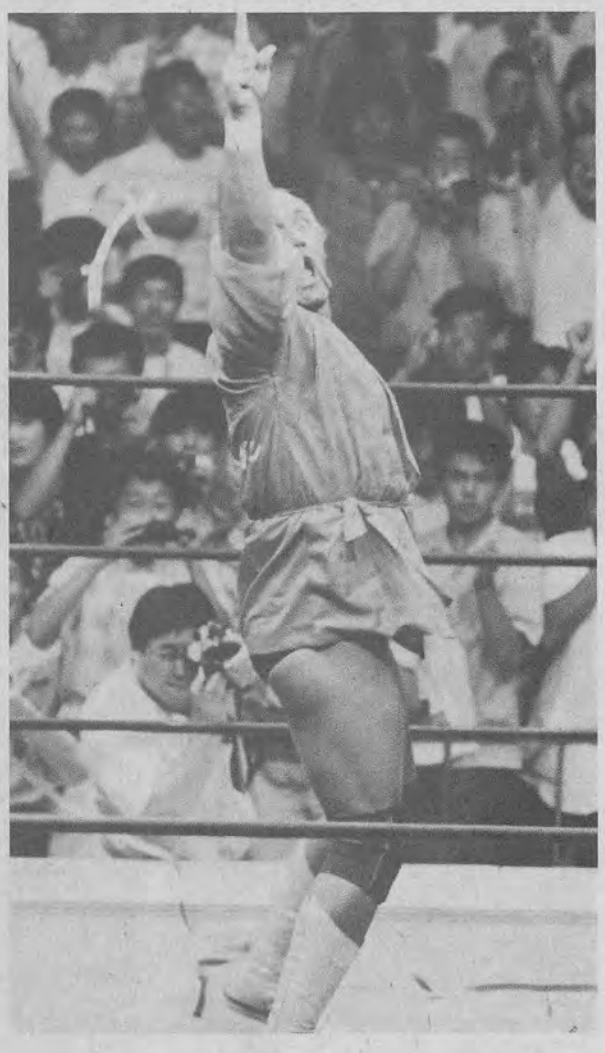
So it was into a culture bristling with such optimism and faith that WWF champion Hulk Hogan arrived recently, feeling, no doubt, as he towered head and shoulders above the nation's diminutive populace, that wrestling here against these lilliputian Japanese would be the easiest working vacation he'd ever have. Not quite. What Hogan discovered is what thousands of unemployed auto workers have known now for years: These Japanese play for keeps. Hogan's Sunday stroll around Sagamihara almost turned into a nightmare in Nagoya, as he and his treasured belt were pushed beyond the limits of his abilities.

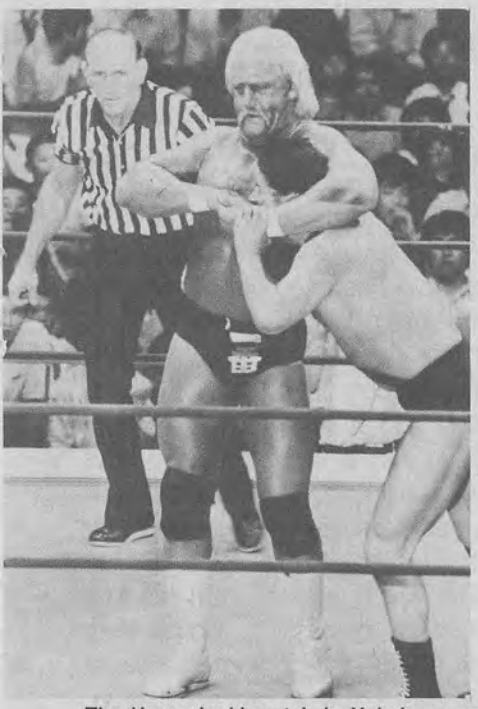
The champ's itinerary read like a travel agent's bad joke:

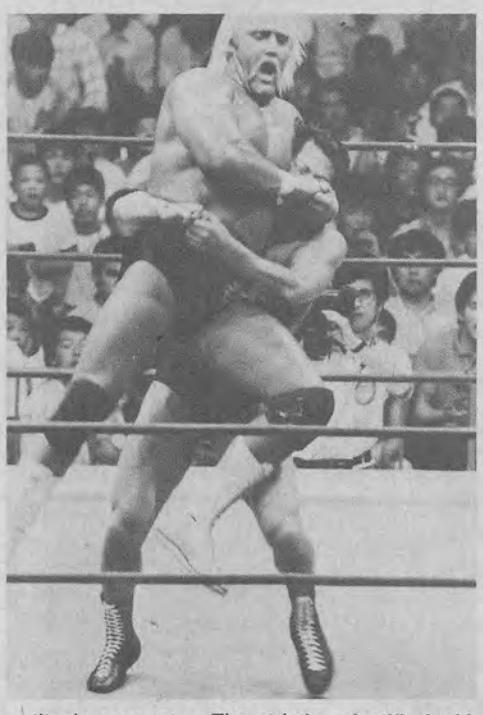
FRIDAY: Before a sell-out crowd in the tiny hamlet of Matsumoto, Hogan and Iron Mike Sharpe were defeated by the team Antonio Inoki and Kenji Kimura. Correspondent Jimmy Suzuki, who followed Hogan's travels while he was in Japan, described the match as containing "lots of action. Mike Sharpe was out of his league and was the reason his team lost, but

Photos by Koichi Yoshizawa

Hogan stands on a train platform in Tokyo waiting for the bullet train that would take him to his next match (left). The 12:54 was right on time. The crowd in Ogaki is in a frenzy as it witnesses Hulkamania firsthand (below).







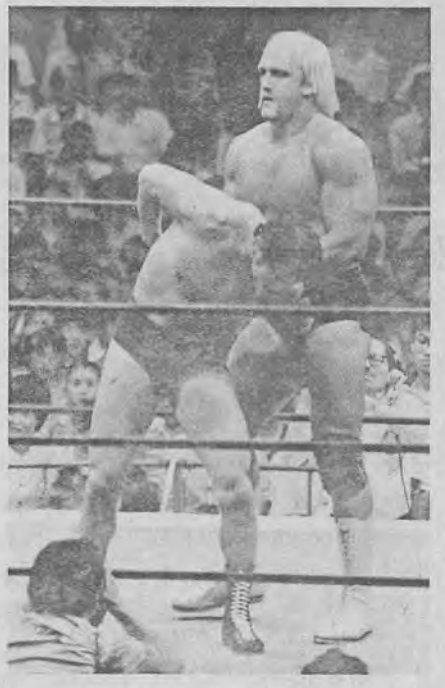
The Hogan-Inoki match in Yokohama was a titanic encounter. The strictly scientific Inoki pushed Hogan to the limit. Here Hogan's headlock (above left) is turned to Inoki's advantage (above right) as the Japanese star takes the WWF champion to the canvas.

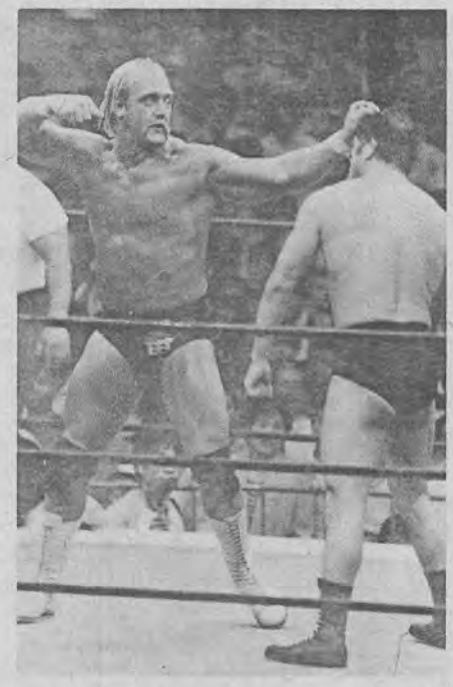
Hogan was also surprised by the toughness and durability of Inoki and Kimura. I doubt whether Hogan will be as relaxed as he was tonight again."

SATURDAY: Hogan, determined not to repeat last night's poor performance, defeats Seji Sakaguchi, in a match that had the fans standing on their seats throughout. About this encounter Suzuki said, "Hogan was meaner and quicker than last night but Sakaguchi didn't roll over and play dead. He forced Hogan to use every trick in his arsenal to capture the victory."

SUNDAY: Five thousand people crammed the arena in Ogaki and cheered rapturously as Kimura, Inoki, and Tatsumi Fujinami upset the team of Adrian Adonis, Dick Murdoch, and Hogan. According to Suzuki, the Americans were ou-

Above: Hogan applies an armbar that Inoki tries desperately to reverse. Below left: The huge Hogan towered over his Japanese opponent. This extra leverage adds to the pain of Hogan's hammerlock. Below right: Hogan forgets scientific wrestling to punch Inoki in the head. This incensed the Japanese crowd, which considers Inoki a national hero.





Hogan's promoter, Vince McMahon, addresses the huge Tokyo crowd as Hogan listens (above). The trophy was awarded to Hogan after his victory over Tatsumi Fujinami. The Tokyo fans were less than kind to Hogan during this match.

thustled and ouwrestled, although again it appeared that Hogan was hurt by a lack of support. Rumors circulating in several Japanese newspapers lent credence to the theory that Murdoch and Adonis had conspired to make Hogan look bad, although nothing of the sort was confirmed.

TUESDAY: Tokyo was the scene of Hogan's next encounter and the blond-haired giant responded to the jeers and taunts of over 11,000 partisan fans by soundly defeating Fujinami. Suzuki reported that "it seemed as if the large crowd stimulated Hogan to wrestle better. He silenced the crowd several times."

WEDENSDAY: Yokahama was the next stop for the WWF champ and the fans in Japan's third-largest city were treated to the sight of the world's largest tag team when Hogan and Andre the Giant joined their considerable forces to defeat Sakaguchi and Inoki. "What a sight it was to see Andre and Hogan wrestle together," remarked Suzuki. "I think Sakaguchi and Inoki were a little in awe too."

THURSDAY: The match all of wrestling-crazy Japan had been waiting for attracted 12,330 fans who saw their national hero Inoki come within a whisker of capturing the WWF title. The titanic struggle saw both men exchange blows so powerful that many of the ringside fans were forced to turn their heads in horror and disbelief. In the end, it was Inoki who prevailed when Hogan was counted out of the ring. Although he lost, Hogan held on to his title because the match ended in a countout. Nevertheless, Hogan, visibly shaken at the match's conclusion, knew he had been in a war. Iwo Jima, his beaten brow seemed to suggest, was never like this.

The wrestling over with, his title still in his possession, Hogan then took in the sights and sounds of Japan as a tourist, an occupation, he had discovered in six brutal nights, he much prefered. □

WRESTLING'S FIENDISH FACES

THERE MAY NOT be any greater manifestation of an individual's personality than through his or her face. And in the world of professional wrestling, where personalities often run wild and reckless, some of the most expressive and frightening faces can be found.

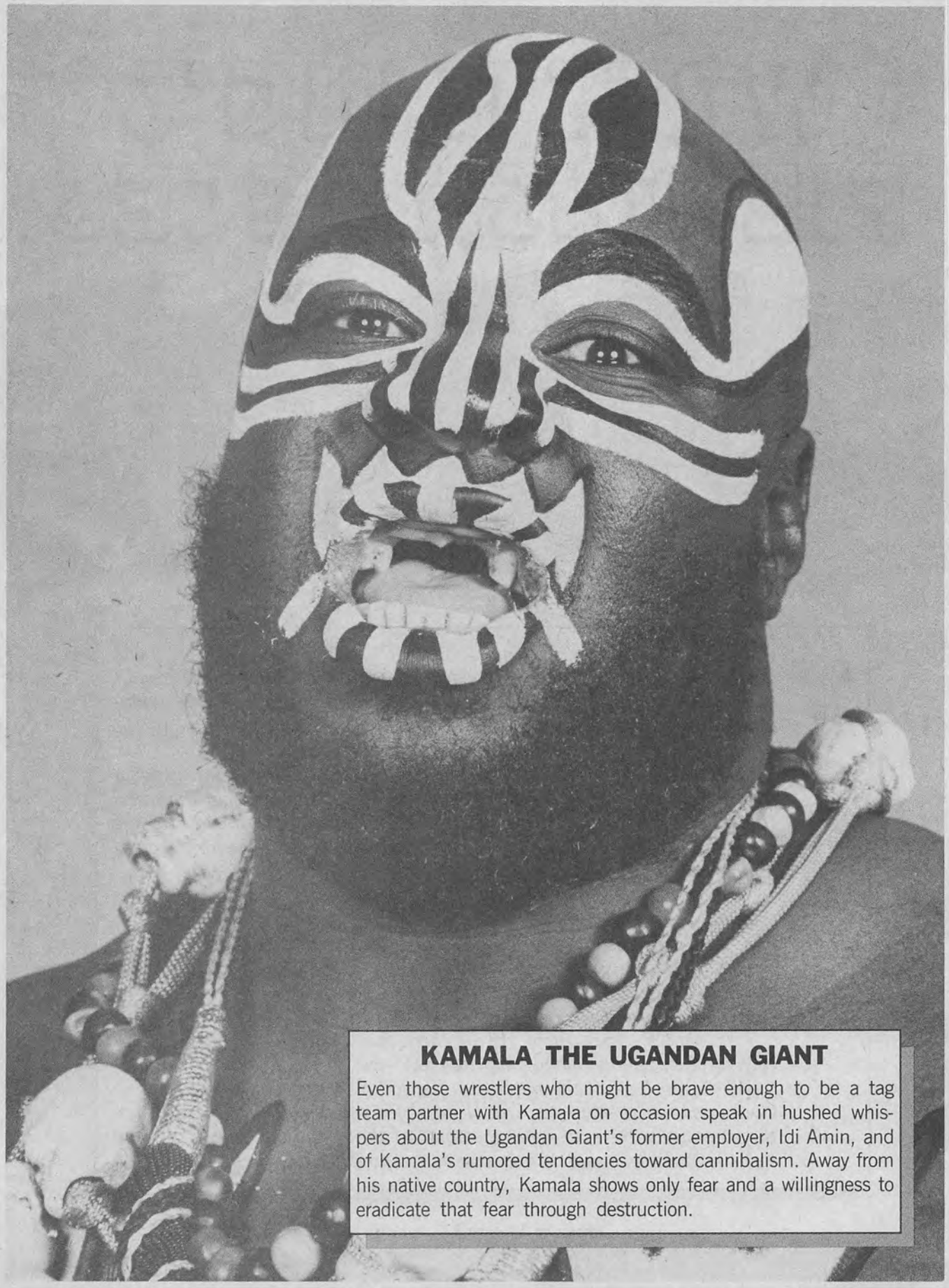
On the pages that follow, you'll be treated to a brief selection of what we like to call wrestling's ***fiendish*** *faces, chilling countenances that send frigid blasts of fear reverberating through the length and breadth of the spine, all expertly captured by the photographer's trained eye, captured at the height of fearsome emotional peaks.*

These are all faces to be afraid of, faces that are attached to bodies that are primed and ready for one thing, and one thing only: pure, total, and utter destruction of their opponents. They are faces that reflect the nature of this mission of demolition, faces that bespeak of an insane desire to obliterate flesh, drink blood, and bask in the sadistic glory of pain and torture fully delivered.

Five photos; seven men. All of them pure juggernauts of evil. And each of them more dangerous than the next.

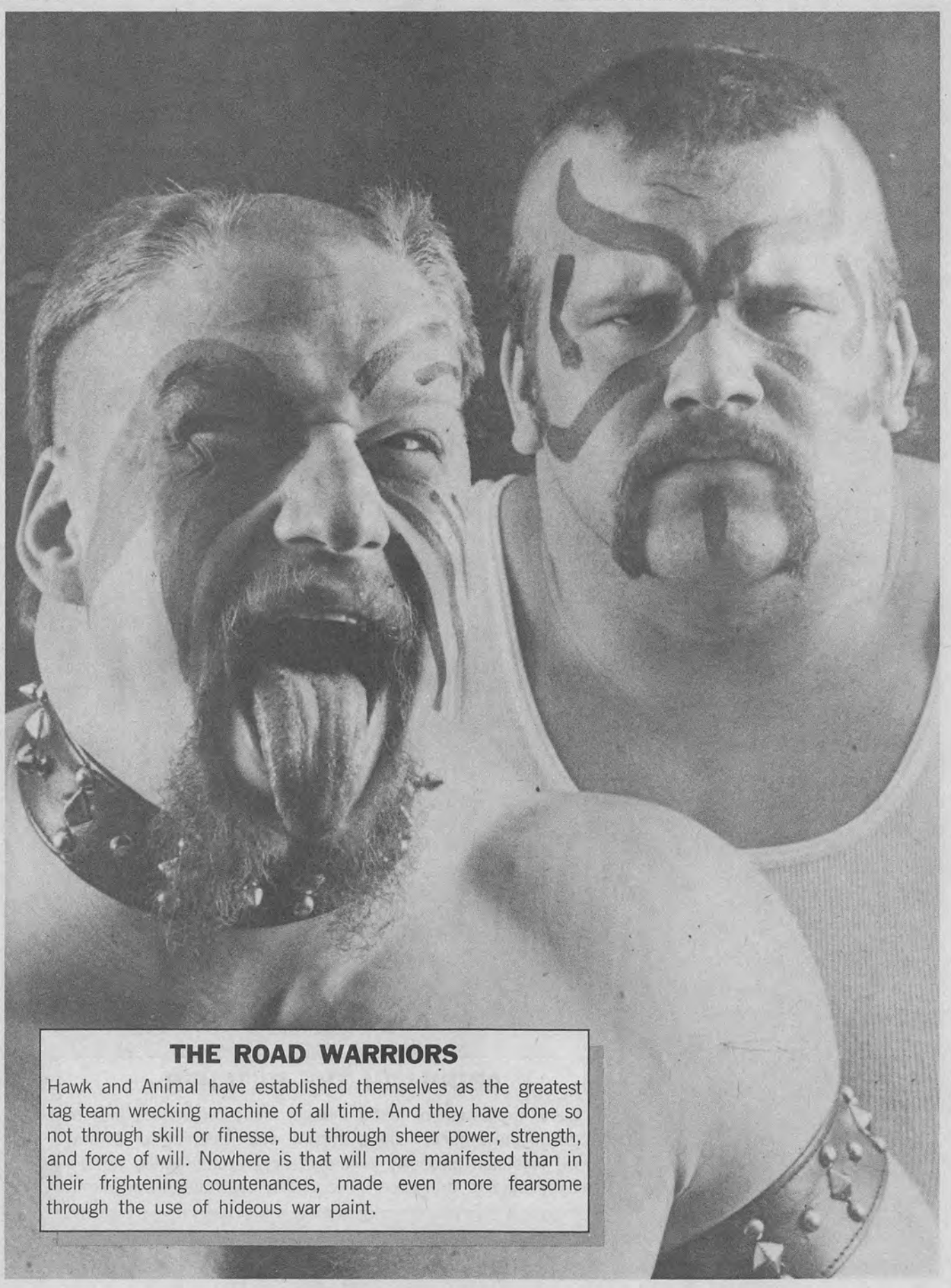
When you look at the photos on the following pages, pay particularly close attention to the eyes. For it has been often said that the eyes are the gateway to the soul—and the souls of these men are indeed polluted by a heinous evil that words could not possibly describe!

Photos by Bill Apter & Craig Peters



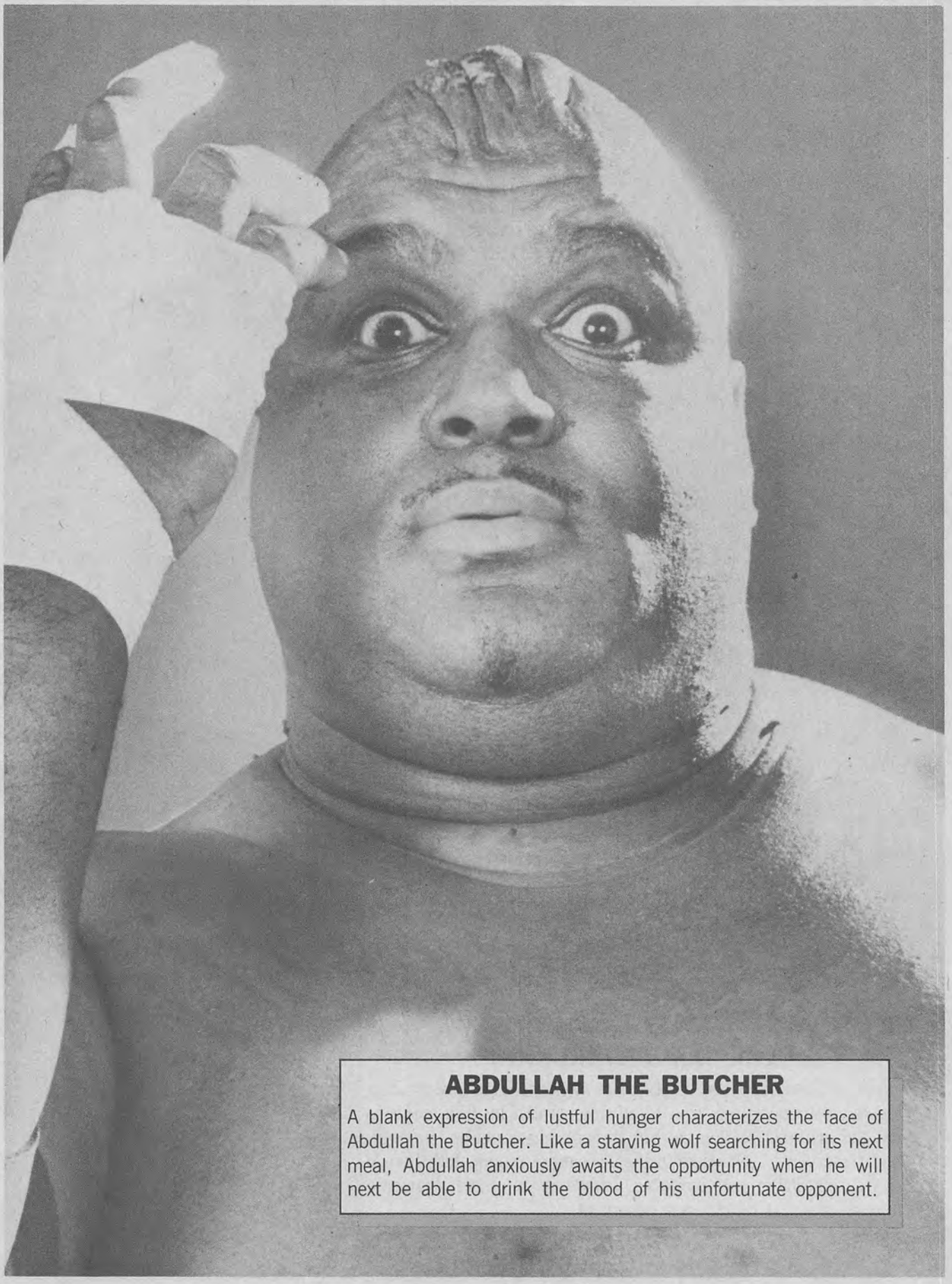
KAMALA THE UGANDAN GIANT

Even those wrestlers who might be brave enough to be a tag team partner with Kamala on occasion speak in hushed whispers about the Ugandan Giant's former employer, Idi Amin, and of Kamala's rumored tendencies toward cannibalism. Away from his native country, Kamala shows only fear and a willingness to eradicate that fear through destruction.



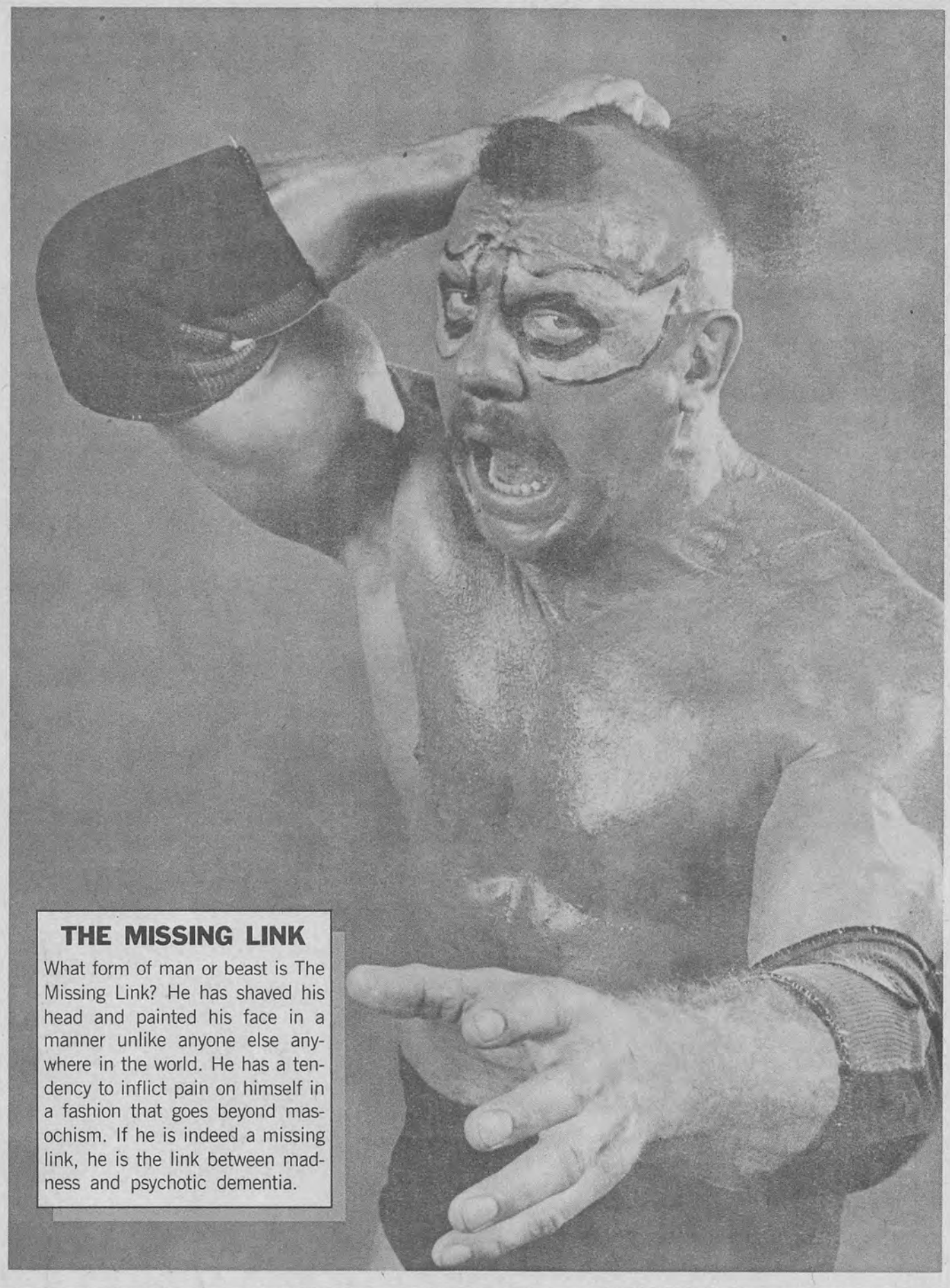
THE ROAD WARRIORS

Hawk and Animal have established themselves as the greatest tag team wrecking machine of all time. And they have done so not through skill or finesse, but through sheer power, strength, and force of will. Nowhere is that will more manifested than in their frightening countenances, made even more fearsome through the use of hideous war paint.



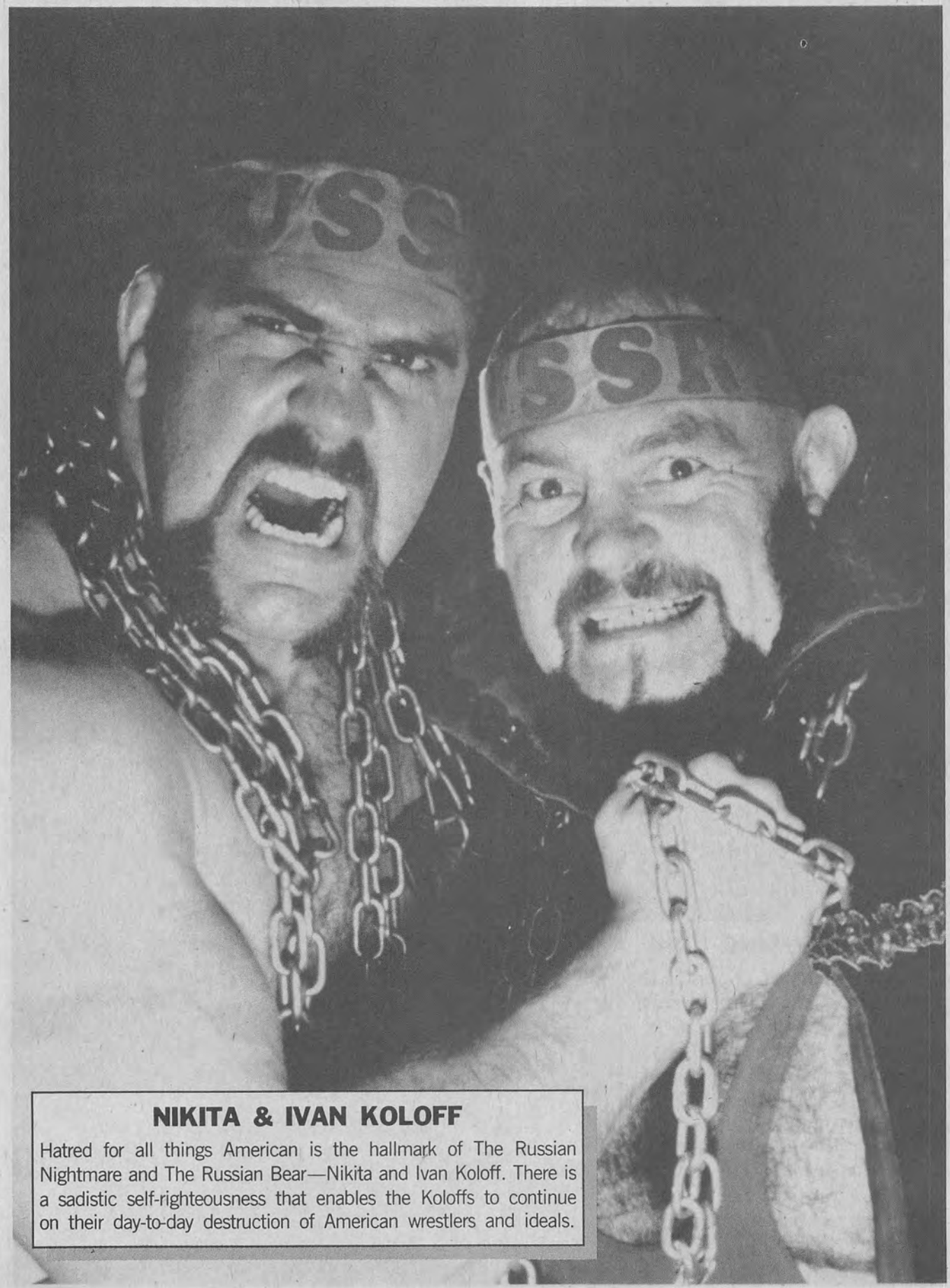
ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

A blank expression of lustful hunger characterizes the face of Abdullah the Butcher. Like a starving wolf searching for its next meal, Abdullah anxiously awaits the opportunity when he will next be able to drink the blood of his unfortunate opponent.



THE MISSING LINK

What form of man or beast is The Missing Link? He has shaved his head and painted his face in a manner unlike anyone else anywhere in the world. He has a tendency to inflict pain on himself in a fashion that goes beyond masochism. If he is indeed a missing link, he is the link between madness and psychotic dementia.



NIKITA & IVAN KOLOFF

Hatred for all things American is the hallmark of The Russian Nightmare and The Russian Bear—Nikita and Ivan Koloff. There is a sadistic self-righteousness that enables the Koloffs to continue on their day-to-day destruction of American wrestlers and ideals.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

The WWF World championship—more reaction! The October 1985 edition of our sister magazine *The Wrestler* was the first of our publications to carry the news that the WWF heavyweight and tag team titles had been upgraded to world title status, and it seemed as if the mail began arriving at our offices within minutes of that magazine reaching the newsstands. Here are some of your letters, pro and con:

Hulk Hogan

Calvin Hayden, Bronx, NY: I was very pleased when I looked at "Ratings Analysis" in the October 1985 issue of *The Wrestler* and saw that Hulk Hogan is now being recognized as a world champion. I was also pleased to see that you had done the same thing to the WWF tag team title. I feel that there is no controversy. Hulk Hogan is caught in the same trap as Bob Backlund was when he was WWF World champion. Hogan is being manipulated by the promoter, Vince McMahon. I really believe that if it were up to him, Hogan would defend his title against anyone deserving, be he scientific or rulebreaker.

The reason that Ric Flair and Rick Martel are more respected champions than Hulk Hogan is because the promoters of both the NWA and the AWA allow both men to defend their titles against both rulebreakers and scientific wrestlers (although lately it seems like Martel has been wrestling and defending against only rulebreakers). The NWA and AWA promoters don't care who it is—if a wrestler deserves a shot at the title, he should get one.

If there were some way to get rid of Vince McMahon and put in his place a promoter who would allow Hogan to defend his title against both scientific and rulebreaking wrestlers, then Hogan would get the respect that he deserves.

***

John Newman, Montvale, NJ: I'm writing in response to Billy Baxter and Veronica and Robert Schnickel and thousands of others. I am absolutely *sick* and *tired* of those idiots saying Hulk Hogan is a world champion. Hulk Hogan is nothing but a musclebound freak and a toy for Vince McMahon to give him more money. Hogan faces no one he doesn't have a chance to defeat. He fights no one near the caliber that Ric Flair or Rick Martel face. How can you people even compare Hogan to Flair? Flair is the Real and Only World Champion. Hogan needs actors and rock stars to show how great he is. "Slick" Ric doesn't need anybody to show how great he is; his actions in and out of the ring speak for themselves. And if a Hogan-Flair match ever took place, Hogan would be in intensive care!

If any of you Hulk-a-idiots are swearing under your breath, then why don't you go out there and do something about it? You dimwits should write to McMahon and tell him you want Hogan to fight Flair in a title-unification match. Then we'll see who the true World champion is. And if the truth has finally sunk into those thick skulls of yours, you *won't* write to McMahon in order to protect your "champion" from a humiliating defeat.

Finally, if the WWF heavyweight title is going to be called a world championship, then I suggest all you Hulkamaniacs learn a little history—say, back to June or July of 1980 when Hulk Hogan was beaten by the only man in the WWF who deserved to be called "World Champion," the great Bob Backlund, the *true* WWF World champion. Bobby beat Hogan before, he can do it again.

Hulk Hogan a world champion? Hah hah! I'll die laughing!

Clete Carey Jr., Hazleton, PA: Hallelujah! A terrible injustice has been corrected. Hulk Hogan was finally and rightfully recognized as the WWF World heavyweight champion, and Mike Rotundo and Barry Windham likewise as the WWF World tag team champs. About time, fellas. What the heck did you think the first "W" in WWF stands for, wiener-schnitzel?

***

Vince McMahon

Rob Nicholas, Seattle, WA: You made a big mistake when you gave the WWF title world championship status. Hogan, the WWF, and Vince McMahon are all big jokes. They make a mockery out of pro wrestling. In your ratings from the October 1985 issue, Hogan wrestles four, perhaps five wrestlers, if you count Greg Valentine, who just lost the Intercontinental title to Tito Santana. The other wrestlers who work hard to try for a title just get turned down. Rick Martel and Ric Flair, on the other hand, defend their titles against all comers, fan favorite or rulebreaker. Hogan is just an overrated clown who disgraces the sport to embarrassment. Hopefully, he will be beaten and it will be the end of Hulk Hogan cartoons and Hulk Hogan dolls. If not, we can only hope for the best.

***

Ed Demling, South Easton, MA: I have always believed the WWF title should be considered as the third world championship. I will tell you why. Ric Flair and Rick Martel have got to be the biggest wimps. I just cannot believe either one of them can hold a heavyweight title. I'll tell you right now, Hulk Hogan could beat the hell out of Flair or Martel in less than five minutes. Magnificent Muraco, for example, was defeated by the Hulkster, and even *he* could kill Flair or Martel. Paul Orndorff could easily take the title from those wimps Flair and Martel. I would just love to see someone tell Hulk Hogan that his title is not good enough to be considered a world title. Hulk Hogan could take almost every title there is, if he wanted to. Just compare his record to those of Flair and Martel.

The address for mail: We welcome your comments, criticisms and questions about our ratings system. In particular, we want to continue to hear your opinions regarding the WWF World title controversy. Send your letters to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Sports Review Wrestling;* Box 48; Rockville Centre; New York 11571. □

OFF
WRESTLIN

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.

Ric Flair

TOP10

1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN

2—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA

3—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec

4—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

5—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

7—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX

8—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA

9—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC

10—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI

TAG TEAMS

1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 567 pounds

2—**RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 453 pounds

3—**GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
WWF World tag team champions
Combined weight: 511 pounds

4—**CHRIS ADAMS & GINO HERNANDEZ**
World Class tag team champions
Combined weight: 454 pounds

5—**OLE & ARN ANDERSON**
National tag team champions
Combined weight: 525 pounds

6—**AL PEREZ & WENDELL COOLEY**
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 451 pounds

7—**DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON**
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 472 pounds

8—**WAHOO McDANIEL & BILLY JACK HAYNES**
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 505 pounds

9—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**
Mid-Southern tag team champions
Combined weight: 479 pounds

10—**BARRY WINDHAM & MIKE ROTUNDO**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 475 pounds

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to the regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current position of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings). Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

2—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

4—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN

5—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX

6—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA

7—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX

8—**BLACK BART**
301, Houston, TX

9—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
242, St. Louis, MO

10—**GINO HERNANDEZ**
224, Houston, TX

AWA

World Champion:
RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

1—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC

2—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA

3—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA

4—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL

5—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN

6—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA

7—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda

8—**BUCK ZUMHOFE**
222, Hamburg, MN

9—**BORIS ZURKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia

10—**RAY STEVENS**
243, San Francisco, CA

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

1—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX

2—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HA

3—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI

4—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL

5—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA

6—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL

7—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland

8—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ

9—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Washington, DC

10—**COWBOY BOB ORTON**
245, Kansas City, KS

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

1—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

2—**BLACK BART**
301, Houston, TX

3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

4—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

5—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL

6—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA

7—**MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX

8—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL

9—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY

10—**KONGA THE BARBARIAN**
265, Chicago

CIAL
G RATINGS

WORLD CLASS
1—ICEMAN PARSONS
242, St. Louis, MO
2—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX
3—BRUISER BRODY
284, Albuquerque, NM
4—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
5—CHRIS ADAMS
230, Stratford, England
6—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
7—BRIAN ADIDAS
238, Denton, TX
8—ONE MAN GANG
468, Chicago, IL
9—KABUKI
252, Singapore
10—KILLER BROOKS
235, Lancaster, TX

MID-SOUTH
1—DICK MURDOCH
270, Waxahachie, TX
2—THE NIGHTMARE
285, parts unknown
3—HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY
4—STEVE WILLIAMS
295, Tulsa, OK
5—BUTCH REED
265, Kansas City, MO
6—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
5—JAKE ROBERTS
243, Baton Rouge, LA
8—BOB SWEETAN
285, Round Rock, TX
9—DUTCH MANTEL
242, Oil Trough, TX
10—THE MIDNIGHT RIDER
264, parts unknown

FLORIDA
1—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
2—KENDELL WINDHAM
220, Sweetwater, TX
3—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX
4—BILLY JACK HAYNES
245, Portland, OR
5—MIKE GRAHAM
229, Tampa, FL
6—JACK HART
230, St. Petersburg, FL
7—RIP OLIVER
245, Tampa, FL
8—SCOTT McGHEE
220, Shipley, England
9—RIP ROGERS
238, Atlanta, GA
10—BUGSY McGRAW
268, New York, NY

MID-SOUTHERN
1—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
2—KOKO WARE
229, Union City, TN
3—PHIL HICKERSON
238, Jackson, TN
4—TARRUS BALBA
237, Outer Mongolia
5—BOTA
270, Maori Islands
6—JERRY OSKE
243, Hartford, CT
7—LORD JONATHAN BOYD
255, Aucklund, New Zealand
8—TOJO YAMAMOTO
230, Tokyo, Japan
9—RIP MORGAN
250, Auklund, New Zealand
10—BILLY TRAVIS
218, Houston, TX

MISSOURI
1—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO
2—MR. POGO
255, Tokyo, Japan
3—JERRY BLACKWELL
474, Stone Mountain, GA
4—BULLDOG BOB BROWN
258, Winnipeg, Manitoba
5—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
6—ICEMAN PARSONS
232, St. Louis, MO
7—BUZZ TYLER
285, Rock Hill, SC
8—RUFUS R. JONES
287, Boston, MA
9—AKIO SAITO
249, Japan
10—EDCAR THOMAS
241, Norman, OK

NORTHWEST
1—RICKY VAUGHAN
245, Tampa, FL
2—MIKE MILLER
260, Memphis, TN
3—BOBBY JAGGERS
265, Dunlap, KS
4—STEVE SIMPSON
220, Africa
5—MEGA MAHARISHI
260, Portland, OR
6—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE
245, Hollywood, CA
7—BILLY TWO EAGLES
223, San Antonio, TX
8—JOE SAVOLDI
232, Parsippany, NJ
9—TIMOTHY FLOWERS
245, New York, NY
10—STEVE PARDEE
232, San Mateo, CA

MOST POPULAR
1—HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA
2—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
4—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec
5—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
6—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
7—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
8—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC
9—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL
10—BILLY JACK HAYNES
245, Portland, OR

MOST HATED
1—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
2—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
3—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
274, Sunset Beach, HI
4—CHRIS ADAMS
230, Stratford, England
5—RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland
6—NIKITA KOLOFF
276, Moscow, Russia
7—OLE ANDERSON
256, Minneapolis, MN
8—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL
9—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
10—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 6)

where the true wrestlers are and where all the action is." He also said that "all other wrestling alliances are strictly bush league."

Well, if Larsen thinks that, then obviously the hot Arizona sun has baked his brain beyond repair. *All* of the WWF television shows are boring. If I want to be put to sleep I'll watch auto racing or roller derby.

I also wouldn't call Hulk Hogan a true wrestler. All he can do is flex his muscles. If I wanted to watch muscles flexing I'd go down to my gym. I recently watched a match between Magnum T.A. and Ric Flair, a match which contained 35 minutes of nonstop action. I doubt whether Hogan could do *anything* for 35 minutes.

The NWA is without a doubt the "major league of professional wrestling," despite what people like Philip Larsen think. I just hope the criticism of the WWF continues because they certainly deserve it.

STEPHEN CARUSO
Columbia, MD

SAVAGE LOYALTY

I'm glad that the WWF title is now regarded as a world's title and it couldn't have come at a better time for the next WWF heavyweight champion, the Macho Man Randy Savage.

With Savage's speed, skill, and killer instincts, it's just a matter of time until the Macho Man knocks the big goof Hogan off his paper throne. Then the WWF will have a heavyweight champion, not a heavyweight clown.

Let's also hope that when it happens, Hogan will have saved up enough money to retire instead of bringing his stupid antics elsewhere, and that the WWF will realize it's a wrestling federation and not an asylum for idiots.

Sorry Hulkster, it's now time for Macho-Mania!

KENNETH ALAN SUDEIKIS
Chicago

(Continued on page 49)

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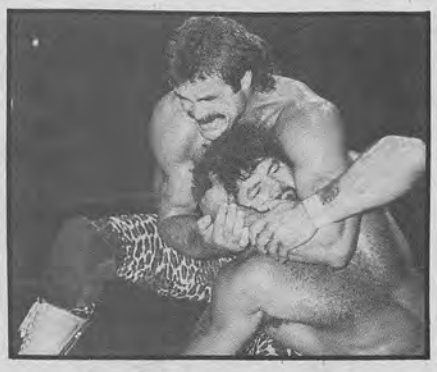
THIS MONTH IN...

The Wrestler



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All this and much more . . . in the January 1986 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*

ON SALE NOW!

MAILBAG

(Continued from page 47)

AMERICA'S CHOICE

I usually agree with your choices for your "Wrestler of the Month" column, but I almost choked when I saw those two painted fools, The Road Warriors, chosen as wrestlers of the month for October. One of the reasons given was that the Warriors were fighting for American values against Nikita

Road Warrior Animal applies a front chancery on Ivan Koloff during a bout for the NWA tag team title that was then held by Ivan and Krusher Khrushchev. Reader Gary Graham disagrees with our choice of the Warriors for Wrestler of the Month.

and Ivan Koloff. Have you forgotten about the fabulous team of Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo? They too have fought against the evil influences of the Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff and they re-captured the WWF title in the process! And they did it by staying within the rules of professional wrestling, which is something that The Road Warriors surely could not say.

GARY GRAHAM
S. Zanesville, OH

WHO'S A RULEBREAKER?

I'm shocked at the recent title defense by Rick Martel against Terry Gordy and I think it serves as proof positive that there is no such thing as a rulebreaker.

(Continued on page 50)

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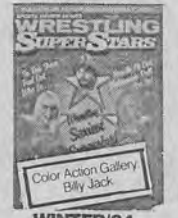

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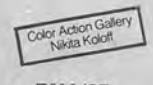

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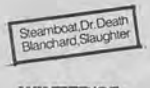

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 9)

The match was completely even as both men fought within the boundaries of the rules. Referee Dick Woherle did a tremendous job in maintaining order and everyone was treated to a match filled with energy. With one minute to go, Martel caught Gordy in a suplex and then, inexplicably, began to punch and kick Gordy. The bell rang and the match ended in an appropriate draw, but that didn't stop Martel. He gave Gordy another suplex and continued on his unprovoked assault on the unsuspecting Freebird.

Finally, Michael Hayes and Buddy Roberts had to come in and rescue their friend, and they added a few well-deserved kicks and punches to the head and body of Rick Martel.

For his unsportsmanlike conduct in the ring, Martel should be stripped of the title and he should be suspended from the ring.

STEVEN SCHOLTEN
Northville, NY □

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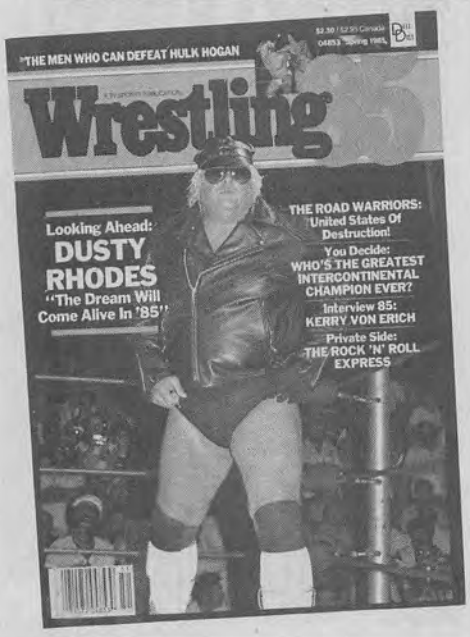
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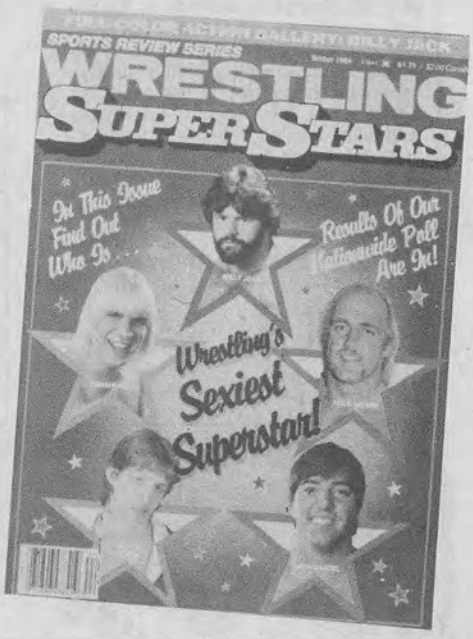
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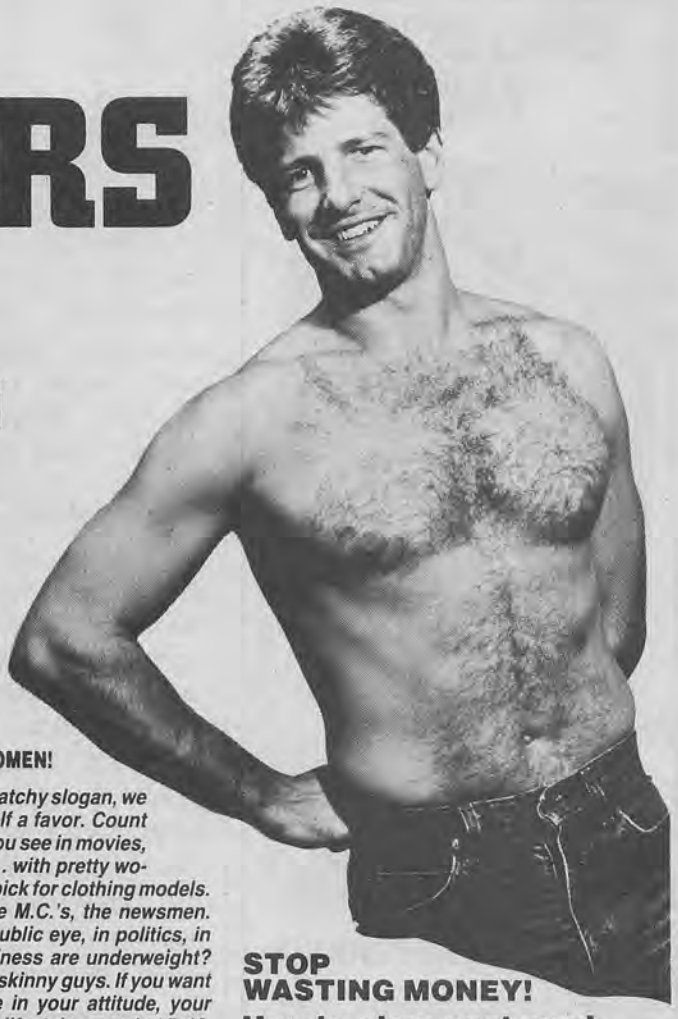

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SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

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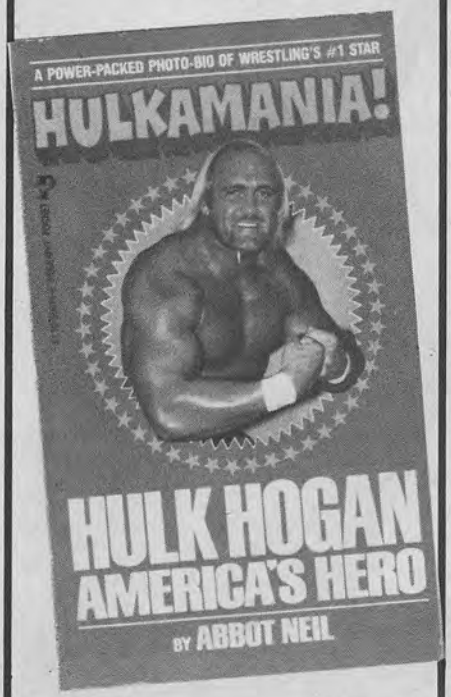

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DILLON'S HATRED

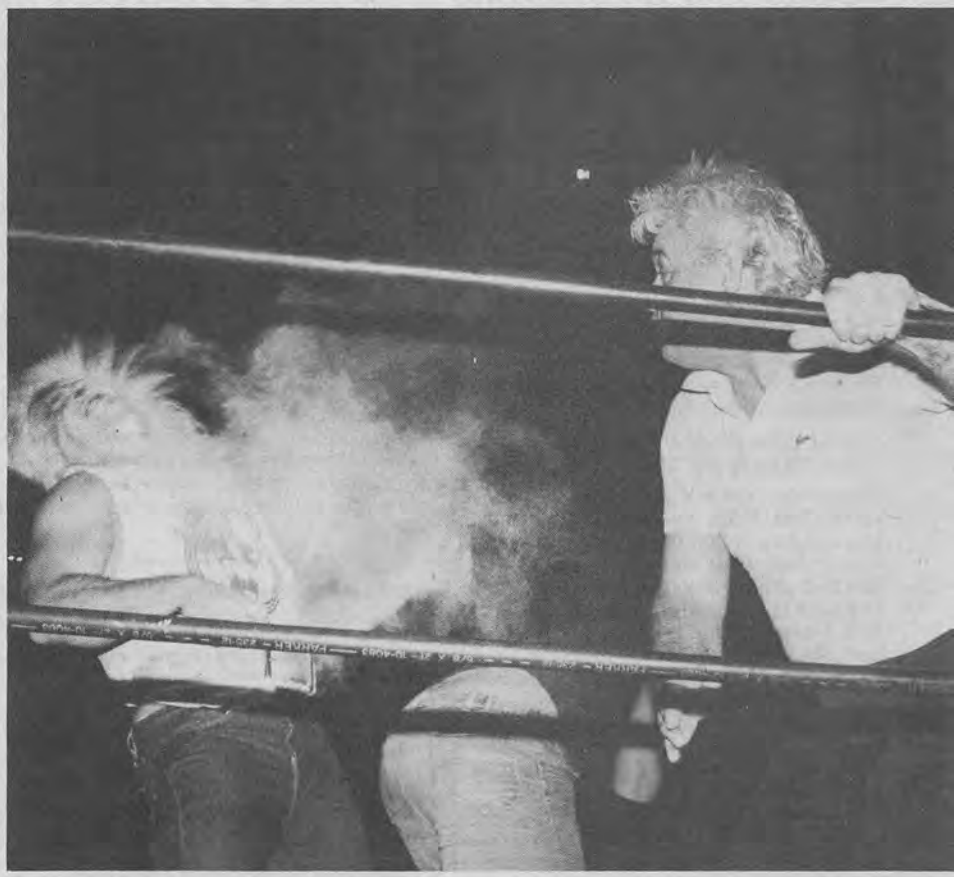
(Continued from page 33)

much, God knows he owes me something. I guess I'll just take it out of his hide."

Dillon didn't shy from Bass' challenge and immediately signed Landell into a bunkhouse match against the raging Cowboy, a move that provoked Bass even more. "Dillon doesn't care about anyone," Bass said before the match. "First he throws Landell against Flair, now he puts him into a bunkhouse match against me. Landell will be out of wrestling after tonight and you can blame it all on Dillon. I'm not gonna stop with Landell. When I get through with him I'm going right for Dillon."

The bunkhouse match—a brawl fought in street clothes where belts, boots, and chains become legal weapons—between Bass and Landell was bathed in hatred, not to mention a good two pints of blood. Bass, long hailed as the

Above: The action spills out of the ring as both Landell and Bass concentrate on mayhem more than style. Below: Dillon will do anything to get even with Bass, including using powder in an attempt to blind him. Bass moves out of the way, however, and the joke is on Dillon—and Landell.



King of the Bunkhouse, showed why, as he beat Landell bloody with a combination of fists, boots, and ties, the last named of which he used to choke Landell to literally within an inch of his life.

It wasn't until Dillon interfered that Landell was able to dole out some punishment of his own. After Dillon stunned Bass with a folding chair over his head, Landell continued the assault with an improvisational beating that included the usage of Bass own boots. As both men exchanged bloody fists by the ropes, Dillon crept into the ring intent on delivering the *coup de grace* in the form of a blinding powder, which he intended to toss into Bass eyes. At the last instant, Bass, ring veteran that he is, ducked from out of the powder's way, leaving Landell to accept his boss' unintended present.

Landell, writhing in agony, was comforted by Dillon as the referee rang for the bell, declaring the match a no-contest. To all who witnessed the violent debacle, however, it was clear as Bass left the ring, hands extended in victory, while Landell sat bowed, blinded, and bloodied on the apron, who had won this match.

Afterward, Dillon responded to the stories claiming that his obsession with Ron Bass was destroying Buddy Landell's career. "I know what's best for Buddy Landell," he screamed. "I know what's best for J.J. Dillon. And I know what's best for Ron Bass. Landell is getting the most valuable experience of his life fighting cheats like Bass. That's how he'll grow into a champion.

"Bass is a jealous, self-serving, over-the-hill, doomed bum. Why don't you think he's had a title shot in years? I've protected him from the plain truth that he's a bum. With me he was safe. Against me he will get familiar with his beloved Texas dust a lot sooner than he thought." □

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 12)

around, well, it wasn't worth the risk" ... The Outlaws, Dick Murdoch and Dusty Rhodes, wrestled the Florida tag team championship from Jose Lothario and Argentine Apollo ... Jack Brisco retained his Florida heavyweight championship with a dazzling victory over the Great Mephisto ... With wrestling immortal Ernie Dusek maintaining control as special referee, Mad Dog and Butcher Vachon retained their AWA tag team title with a two-out-of-three falls victory over Tex McKenzie and Plowboy "Uncle Elmer" Frazier ... Pat Patterson, wearing a mask for this match, won the U.S. title from Ray Stevens at Sacramento in a highly controversial bout. With the match even at one fall apiece, Patterson was thrown out of the ring, where he slipped a sharp object under his mask. As soon as he returned to the ring, he started a savage butting attack which hammered Stevens into unconsciousness ... Patterson returned to San Francisco and teamed with Kenji Shibuya to defeat Peter Maivia and Haystacks Calhoun ... After a wild and bloody match at Ft. Worth in which the Texas heavyweight title was on the line, Johnny Valentine admitted, "I can't ever remember having a tougher match than this one." The opponent was the popular Tim "Mr. Wrestling" Woods. A match that started out clean turned into an all-out brawl for three falls. Valentine disqualified himself to retain his title ... In a grudge tag team match in Philadelphia, Chief Jay Strongbow and Arnold Skaaland defeated Crusher Verdu and Lou Albano ... Bruno Sammartino rallied after being thrown from the ring three times to defeat 320-pound Bepo Mongol before 17,491 at Madison Square Garden. On the same card, Jack Brisco and Eddie Graham came north from Florida to topple the team of Carlos Paratta and Johnny Rodz. Also, Chief

Florida champion Jack Brisco had an interesting month. In addition to scoring a sensational title defense victory over The Great Mephisto, he teamed with the legendary Eddie Graham, traveled north, and defeated the team of Carlos Paratta (pictured) and Johnny Rodz.

Jay Strongbow stunned the entire crowd when he pinned monstrous Crusher Verdu in only 4:35.

SEPT/OCT 1975

A DISGUSTING AND cruel incident preceded Bruno Sammartino's WWF title defense against German terror Waldo Von Erich. As

Waldo Von Erich plants his leather boot in the midsection of Bruno Sammartino. Von Erich incited the "Living Legend" to new levels of violence, hatred, and brutality.

Bruno was being awarded a trophy for services to the sport of wrestling, Von Erich ran into the ring, kicked Bruno, wrested the trophy from him, and then busted it on the ringpost. Bruno was still dazed when the match began. Von Erich threw Bruno from the ring and attempted to hit the champion with a chair. Bruno was able to grab the chair from his foe and put it to good use to defend the title ... In a riotous six-man tag team match, Andre the Giant, Dominic DeNucci, and Pat Barrett defeated Blackjack Lanza, Blackjack Mulligan, and Lou Albano ... Bobby Heenan took much-deserved criticism for Nick Bockwinkel and Ray Stevens losing the AWA tag team ti-

Bruiser grabs Ray Stevens' hair as Crusher looks on. When Bruiser and Crusher defeated Stevens and Nick Bockwinkel for the AWA World tag team belts, it was one of their greatest victories as a team.

tles to Crusher and Bruiser. "Those two haven't teamed in ages," Heenan said before the match. "My champions will emerge victorious in two straight falls." Bockwinkel and Stevens came into the match overconfident and came away from the match without their belts ... An air disaster nearly claimed the lives of wrestlers Johnny Valentine, Ric Flair, Bob Bruggers, and promoter Dave

(Continued on page 58)

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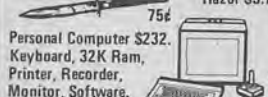
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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 57)

Crockett. Valentine and Bruggers were listed in serious condition and Flair and Crockett were listed as fair when a small Cessna 310 crashed near Wilmington, North Carolina . . . The Mark Lewin-King Curtis blood feud worked its way through the South . . . Comedian Jackie Gleason made news on the wrestling front when he made a guest appearance at Miami, Florida's Convention Hall. While Harley Race was waiting for his opponent to enter the ring, the announcer, aware of the presence of Gleason, a big wrestling fan, asked Jackie to take a bow from the ring. Race grabbed the microphone and, to everyone's surprise, yelled, "Jackie Gleason means no more to me than any of you bums sitting here in the audience. He's just a big, fat bum!" Gleason assumed a fighter's stance, confronted Race, and demanded, "What did you call me?" Race repeated the insult, and Jackie punched Harley with a left to the body and a right to the head before being ushered away by several wrestlers and policemen. Thank goodness for the security, or else it would have been BANG! ZOOM! To the moon! . . . In one of the most vicious battles of all time, The Sheik wrestled Abdullah the Butcher in Atlanta. Fittingly, the action took place inside a steel cage. As the two wrestlers bled profusely, it became apparent that neither man would have the strength to climb out of the cage. The match was ruled a draw. NWA RATINGS: 1—Jack Brisco; 2—Harley Race; 3—Shohei Baba; 4—Dory Funk Jr.; 5—The Sheik; 6—Terry Funk; 7—King Curtis; 8—Abdullah the Butcher; 9—Angelo Mosca; 10—Paul Jones. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Ivan Koloff; 3—Superstar Graham; 4—Bugsy McGraw; 5—Ivan Putski; 6—Spiros Arion; 7—Waldo Von Erich; 8—Haystacks Calhoun; 9—Baron Scicluna; 10—Gorilla Mon-

(Continued on page 60)

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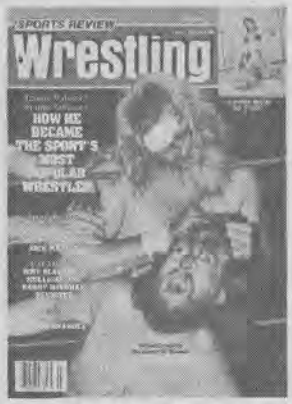

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March 1978/Cover stories: Andre-Flair, Mascaras. PLUS: Koloff, Rhodes, Inoki.

August 1979/Cover story: Bruno-Koloff. PLUS: Flair, Orndorff, Funk.

September 1979/Cover story: Flair-McDaniel. PLUS: Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

February 1980/Cover story: Rhodes-Funk. PLUS: Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

April 1980/Cover stories: Andre, Mulligan-Studd. PLUS: LeDuc, Lawler, Ladd.

May 1980/Cover stories: Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler. PLUS: Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Cover stories: Graham, Patera. PLUS: Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Cover story: Bruno-Graham. PLUS: Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Cover story: Hogan. PLUS: Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Cover story: Morales-Fuji. PLUS: Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

March 1981/Cover story: SPECIAL EDITION—Results of 1980 Fan Poll

April 1981/Cover story: Atlas. PLUS: Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Cover stories: Morales-Khan. PLUS: Lawler, Slater, Piper.

August 1981/Cover story: Freebirds. PLUS: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Brisco.

September 1981/Cover story: Backlund-Mosca. PLUS: Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

October 1981/Cover stories: Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen. PLUS: Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Cover story: Rhodes-DiBiase. PLUS: Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Cover story: Muraco-Morales. PLUS: Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Cover stories: Valentine, Brisco-Funk. PLUS: Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Cover stories: Spoiler, Idol-Hayes. PLUS: Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Cover story: Rich-Flair. PLUS: Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Cover stories: Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka. PLUS: Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Cover stories: Steamboat-Idol, Albano. PLUS: Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Cover stories: Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater. PLUS: Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

September 1982/Cover stories: Von Erich, Bockwinkel. PLUS: Mascaras, Hansen, Rhodes, Blassie.

October 1982/Cover story: Funk-Abdullah. PLUS: Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

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December 1982/Cover stories: Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair. PLUS: Albano, Humperdink.

January 1983/Cover stories: Rich, McDaniel-Valentine. PLUS: Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

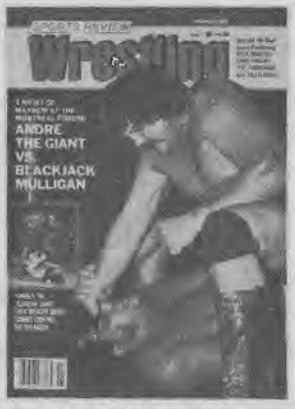
February 1983/Cover stories: Flair-Race, Morales-Rose. PLUS: Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Cover stories: Flair-Bass, Snuka. PLUS: Sullivan, Steamboat.

April 1983/Cover stories: Backlund-Graham, Briscos. PLUS: Rhodes, Hogan.

May 1983/Cover story: Muraco. PLUS: Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco.

June 1983/Cover stories: Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson. PLUS: Brody, Sullivan.



NOVEMBER 1983

July 1983/Cover story: Valiant-Humperdink. PLUS: Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Cover stories: Martel-Valentine, Mulligan. PLUS: Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Cover stories: Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody. PLUS: Slater, Wrestling II, Backlund.

December 1983/Cover story: Windham-LeDuc. PLUS: Santana, Sullivan, Garvin, masked wrestlers.

January 1984/Cover stories: Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel. PLUS: Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Cover stories: Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen. PLUS: Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Cover story: Starrcade '83 featuring Flair, Steamboat & Youngblood, Piper-Valentine. PLUS: Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Cover stories: Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki. PLUS: Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/Cover stories: LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins. PLUS: The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Cover stories: Windham-Flair, Gilbert. PLUS: Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Gordy. PLUS: Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA Tag team tournament.

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March 1985/Cover story: Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs. PLUS: 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich-Blackwell, Billy Haynes-Jesse Barr. PLUS: Hart, Irwins, 1985 in Pictures.

May 1985/Cover stories: Albano, Freebirds-Flair. PLUS: Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas closeup.

June 1985/Cover story: Pro Wrestling U.S.A. PLUS: Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches. PLUS: Backlund, Snuka.

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(Continued from page 58)

soon. AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Baron Von Raschke; 4—Nick Bockwinkel; 5—Pampero Firpo; 6—Crusher; 7—Bruiser; 8—Rene Goulet; 9—Soldier LeBoeuf; 10—Greg Gagne. TAG TEAMS: 1—The Blackjacks; 2—Bruiser & Crusher; 3—The Mongols; 4—Jimmy & Johnny Valiant; 5—Gene & Ole Anderson; 6—Dick Slater & Bob Orton Jr.; 7—The Masked Superstars; 8—The Infernos; 9—The Legionnaires; 10—Tony Parisi & Louis Cerdan.

SEPT/OCT 1980

SHOHEI "GIANT" BABA used a combination of neckbreakers, suplexes, and dropkicks to win the NWA World title from Harley Race on September 4 in Tokyo, Japan. The

Shohei Baba has his hands raised in victory following his NWA World title win over Harley Race in Tokyo. This marked the start of Baba's third NWA title reign.

win, coming at the 14:05 mark, made Baba a three-time NWA World champion, but Race was not discouraged: six days later, in Ostu, Japan, Race regained the belt to begin his fifth reign as NWA kingpin . . . The Samoans won the final round of a tag team tournament to determine new WWF tag team champion in the wake of Bob Backlund and Pedro Morales vacating the title. Backlund felt he couldn't defend both the tag team title and the WWF heavyweight belt simultaneously . . . The wrestling world was shocked to see brothers Lars and Ole Anderson square off in a series of bloody slugfests . . . Sir Oliver Humperdink wound up with his leg in a cast following an attack at the hands of Lord Al Hays and Bobby Jaggers . . . Greg Valentine refused to give Ric Flair another shot at the U.S. heavyweight title . . . Jerry Brisco and Dick Murdoch teamed for a series of matches in Florida . . . Andre the Giant continued to be frustrated by not gaining a victory over Hulk Hogan. In one match, refereed by Gorilla Monsoon, Hogan claimed Monsoon did all he could to sway the match in Andre's favor. NWA RATINGS: 1—Harley Race; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Dusty Rhodes; 4—Ted DiBiase; 5—Hussein Arab; 6—Dennis Condrey; 7—Ken Patera; 8—Dick Slater; 9—Mr. Wrestling II; 10—Bugsy McGraw. AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Nick Bockwinkel; 3—Crusher Blackwell; 4—Crusher; 5—Mad Dog Vachon; 6—Dino Bravo; 7—Jesse Ventura; 8—Tito Santana; 9—Greg Gagne; 10—John Studd. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Hulk Hogan; 3—Larry Zbyszko; 4—Ken Patera; 5—Pat Patterson; 6—Pedro Morales; 7—Ivan Putski; 8—Tony Atlas; 9—The Hangman; 10—Tony Garea. TAG TEAMS: 1—Ray Stevens & Jimmy Snuka; 2—Jesse Ventura & Adrian Adonis; 3—The Samoans; 4—The Assassins; 5—Ivan Koloff & Nikolai Volkoff; 6—Terry Gordy & Buddy Roberts; 7—Jack & Jerry Brisco; 8—Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood; 9—Kerry Von Erich & El Halcon; 10—Verne Gagne & Mad Dog Vachon. □

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INQUIRING REPORTER

(Continued from page 10)

Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo, Lottie Sherman's dream tag team, pose with a Little League baseball team in Tampa, Florida. You can bet that these boys agree with Lottie that "The Young Lions" are one of the best tag teams ever.

for five minutes in the ring against Animal instead of Hawk. Should those two ever join forces, they might as well abolish tag team wrestling."

Stacy Chaplan, Woodstock, NY: "Although I doubt this would ever happen, imagine a team consisting of NWA champion Ric Flair and AWA champion Rick Martel. Their experience would lend new meaning to the words tag team. How could anyone expect to maintain the pace against the two best wrestlers in the world? They'd tear through the competition like Grant through Richmond and spit out the remains of all these would be tag teams."

Lottie Sherman, Carlyle, NV: "The dream combination already exists and they're name is the Young Lions. I'm talking about two-time WWF tag team champions Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo, who are without a doubt the best tag team in the world today. No possible combination of wrestlers can match these two daredevils for courage, teamwork, agility, and ring smarts. Once they regain the title I look forward to them reigning for years and years to come."

Dennis McMurphy, Portland, OR: "Bugsy McGraw and George Steele, need I say more? Physically and psychologically speaking, this tandem would ruin any team silly enough to wrestle them. McGraw, the loony tune guru, and Steele, wrestling's resident gourmet, would confuse their opponents into states of apoplexy. That and the fact that they can dole out punishment with the best of them would make this a very dangerous team that would be hilarious to watch." □

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Think about it, have you ever seen a fat Chinese woman, an obese Chinese man? We are sure that in almost every case the answer is no. What is this Chinese secret of being thin, slim, almost never being overweight, bulging or unsightly? One out of every four people in the world is Chinese, how do the majority of these hundreds of millions of people stay thin and attractive? They almost all do it without fad diets, diet doctors, health spas, or weight loss books. Read and take advantage of their amazing secret.

WE GET LETTERS

We have received letters from many satisfied customers, people who have purchased the Tea Weight Loss Program, put the program to use and have lost fatty pounds, surplus weight. These satisfied men and women want to share their new thinner happiness with you in hopes that by taking advantage of their experience you too will soon lose ugly unwanted weight.

Evelyn M. Hieatt, Campbell, CA
Dear President:
I bought your tea program. Your offer is the first thing that worked. I have lost 19 pounds and it's staying off.
I've tried every diet there is, I think, through the years with no luck. It always seems to bounce back. I just wanted to say thanks for bringing your tea to this part of the world.

Eva M. Mendes, Fairhaven, MA 02719
Dear Sir:
I am delighted with the results the tea program has brought me. I lose 4 pounds a week; in all I have lost 16 pounds. For me that is marvelous.

Mary Jo McCoy, Cloverport, KY
Dear Sir: I am writing to tell you I am well pleased so far with my tea diet program. I have been on it for two weeks. I drink one cup after each meal and I have lost 14 pounds so far.

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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

CHRIS ADAMS & GINO HERNANDEZ

DALLAS, TX: Local bookmakers have installed Chris Adams and Gino Hernandez as 8-5 favorites to retain their hair in the big Cotton Bowl showdown October 13 against Kerry and Kevin Von Erich. "Mike Von Erich's injury has taken a lot of training time away from Kerry and Kevin," said bar owner Heshie Angelo, who is rumored to be the most powerful bookie in Dallas. "The smart money is on the bad guys to win big. Word has it that they've been training their buns off preparing for this match."

A spokesman for the Von Erichs refused to comment about Mike's injury or the odds against Kevin and Kerry. They issued a curt press release that said only "The Von Erichs do not condone gambling and feel anybody foolish enough to bet is wasting their money."

Meanwhile, Hernandez and Adams were whopping it up in their headquarters on the outskirts of Dallas. "I've never been so pumped up for a match in my career," piped Chris Adams. "Just thinking about Kerry Von Erich walking out of the Cotton Bowl bald is all the incentive I need. Those guys have needed a good humbling now for years and this is going to be when they get it."

His partner was quick to agree. "Let's see how many little girls run after those clowns when their hair is all off," cackled Hernandez. "Without his hair, Kerry looks like Daddy Warbucks. I can't wait. I wish the match was tommorrow."

—Andrew Ray

MEMPHIS, TN: "I've finally found him," cried a smiling Jerry Lawler. "The search is finally over. Now we've got those birdbrains right where we want them."

What delighted the King of Memphis was the acquisition of the Mongolian Stomper to round out his six-man tag team of Phil Hickerson and himself. Lawler had been shopping desperately around the country to

locate a man with the appropriate skills to aid Lawler and Hickerson in their brutal feud against The Freebirds. After several secret tryouts, Lawler and Hickerson both agreed that the Stomper was their man.

In their very first match against The Freebirds, the Stomper returned to his old ways when he *turned* on Lawler and Hickerson after several minutes in the ring. The crazed Mongolian, always unpredictable, attacked Lawler without provocation, leading many to believe that it was The Freebirds who were using the Stomper to bait Lawler.

MONGOLIAN STOMPER

Lawler fumed outrageously in his dressing room after the match, saying, "I don't know who is behind this, but I won't rest until I find out. No one is going to make the King of Wrestling look like a fool in his home town. The Freebirds? They're dead! The Mongolian Stomper? He's a dead man, too. And if I discover that they've been working togehter, I'll kill them each twice."

Hickerson agreed with his tag team partner. "I'm right behind Lawler. Jerry trusted the Stomper and he turned on him in a second. That's no way to survive in this business. If I was the Stomper I'd be on the next flying carpet back to Mongolia. Lawler is mad!"

—Randy Swift □

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Being first; taking advantage of a hot opportunity is the key to making it big, or, at least, taking the cream off the top of a money-making plan. Few people know about our program. But when you do and you learn the details and think about the possibilities you'll wonder why it hasn't been in full swing all along. There's a **great vacuum** out there for this **much-wanted service** and the first one on the scene will get the gravy. Beat 'em all by getting the jump now.

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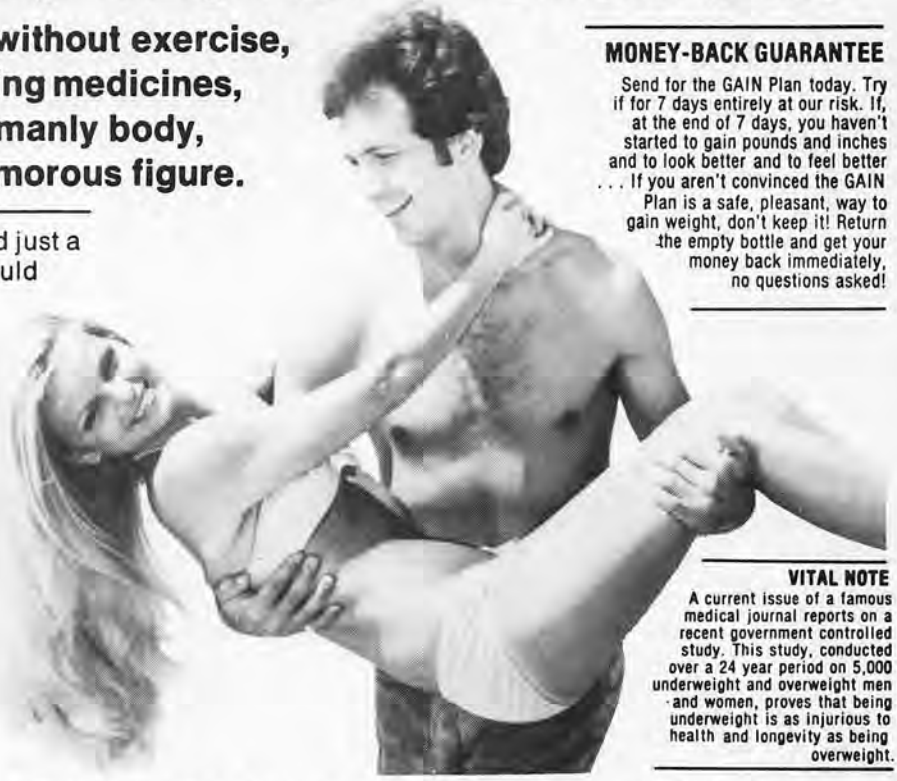

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